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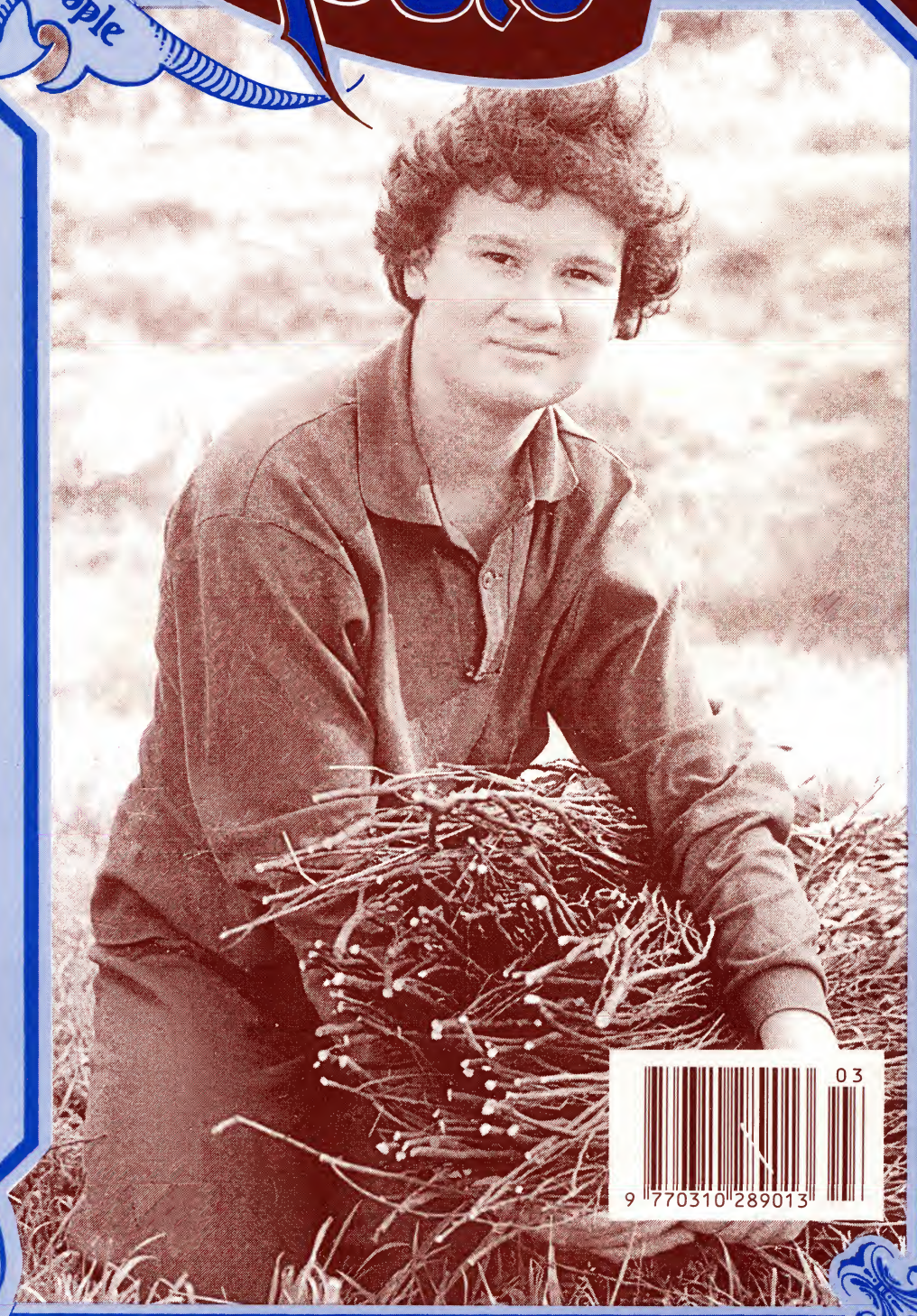
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JUN/JUL 1994

- Handmade Besoms
- Moon Planting
- Simple Donkey Cart
- Moveable Bush Dunny
- Persimmons
- DIY Hen Houses



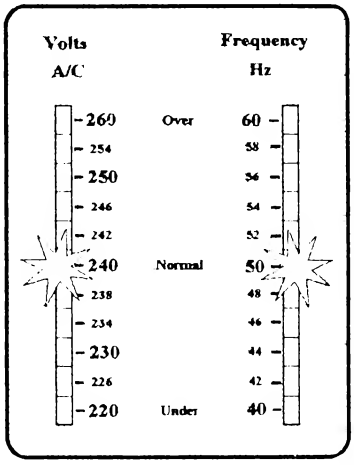
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Front cover: Eleven year old Elinor Jean has become the besom maker for her family. To find out what a besom is and how you can make these useful items, turn to page 9.
Photo by Robin Jean, Braidwood, NSW.

Back cover: The tranquillity and fecundity of the Bellinger Valley are epitomised in this magnificent old Moreton Bay fig tree at Thora. Read more about life in this enchanting area on page 25.
Photo by Jenny Ledgar, Repton, NSW.

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Distributed by Gordon and Gotch.

Many readers will identify with Pauline Ranscombe's predicament of being in need of a break from the never-ending farm chores and having to persuade a reluctant spouse of the desirability of taking a holiday. A visit to a luxury resort was an unusual choice for this GR couple, more used to tenting and campfire cooking than to 'soft living' in self-indulgent splendour. The attraction was the prospect of seeing and hand-feeding the dolphins which nightly visit the shallow waters nearby. Pauline's experience with dolphin feeding was so entrancing and memorable that she felt compelled to share it with us.

TANGALOOMA DOLPHINS

By Pauline Ranscombe, Newrybar, NSW.

One of the problems with working from home and hobby farming is not only that you forget what day it is, but you tend to forget to give yourself a break. Now this might be all right for the assorted livestock around the place, but humans need a change of pace and scenery once in a while which was the point I had reached in early '93. There were two problems though: where to go, and how to convince the other human on the property, my husband Fred, that a holiday would recharge our batteries?

I decided it would be better to have a destination to present him with, so leafed through the paper looking for ideas – not to mention postponing the inevitability of doing the breakfast dishes – and an advertisement caught my eye. 'Hand-feed the wild dolphins of Tangalooma,' it read. Well, that was it, I was hooked.

The problem was, how to hook Fred. I'm not saying it was a long time since we'd had a break of any sort, but I rather suspect that Fred had forgotten which end of a fishing rod to hold. However, with our thirtieth wedding anniversary coming up, plus one of the 'big O' birthdays for me, I reckoned I stood a pretty good chance of weaning him away from the property. The dolphin feeding did at least bring a gleam of interest into his eye, as did the location of only a three-hour drive from home followed by an hour's cruise from Brisbane out to Moreton Island.

So far so good. Mind you, there was a slight hitch when I mentioned that part of the three-day package holiday was staying at a luxury resort. I must admit that I had a few qualms on that too. Holidays, for us, are more the roughing it in a tent type, cooking on open fires and wearing any old scruffy clothes. We had never stayed at a luxury resort before and for all I knew there was the disturbing possibility that we might have to dress for dinner. This did pose a problem as most of our clothes are decorated with recalcitrant muddy paw marks and a variety of farm stains. We would also have to remember the finer points of etiquette such as not tossing the dregs of one's teacup on the ground. I didn't bother mentioning any of this to Fred in case he got colder feet than he already had. I simply kept enthusing about hand-feeding wild dolphins and booked the holiday before any of the livestock decided to go down or missing.

As it turned out, our room not only looked out over an idyllic, palm fringed subtropical beach, but was equipped with cooking facilities, including a microwave oven. Compared to camping, it all seemed sinfully decadent, and delightful. Just think, if we caught any fish, I would be able to nuke them. I'd probably still burn them as I do over a camp fire, but I'd be able to burn them more thoroughly and more quickly in the microwave.

Anyway, enough of this soft living, when and where did we get to feed the dolphins? We found an information booklet gracing the glass-topped coffee table, which was another distinct change from camping. We are used to using the top of the Esky which ends up in the middle of the tent where everyone trips over it. According to the booklet, the dolphins appeared nightly at the end of the jetty and we would find the time they were due written up on the activities board in the cane lounge.

Five minutes later found us standing in front of the colourfully chalked board battling with unaccustomed decisions. If dolphin feeding was at 7.30 pm should we have dinner first, and if so, would we eat in the restaurant or on the beachfront terrace, get a takeaway or cook something ourselves? In order to make such a momentous decision, we lolled around on the terrace looking out to sea and sipping beer out of glasses instead of cans. I was amazed at how quickly we were managing to adapt to this lifestyle.

Six o'clock found us opting for a takeaway and seven o'clock found us down at the jetty waiting for the dolphins to arrive. We weren't disappointed; seven dolphins came in to feed, bang on time. The time depends on the state of the low tide and Tangalooma Resort has wisely kept it to the evening low because there is a lot of water orientated activity during the day. That night, I was so spellbound watching, in close-up, the shallow water come alive with the dolphins that I daren't go back to our room to get my bathers on; I didn't want to miss a moment of it.

One minute the water was empty save for small fry and the trained dolphin feeder who is a statutory part of feeding wild dolphins, then suddenly, out of the darkness, there was the dolphin they have named Beauty and her two pups arrowing in. They came effortlessly and almost silently into the shallows and stopped and took the proffered mullett from the dolphin feeder. As soon as it was judged that the dolphins were at ease the tourists were allowed in to feed them, two at a time. The whole area became a swirling mass of dolphins gliding in and out of the circle of light thrown by the jetty lights.

I was fascinated by the way they would all go to the official feeder first before passing on to the tourists. After all, since all dolphins look the same to most humans, you would assume that all human legs would look the same to dolphins, wouldn't you? That night, they stayed for half an hour. When their initial hunger was satisfied they either came up and nudged the eagerly proffered mullett or simply swam around tossing odd bits in the air. And then, as suddenly as they had appeared, they were gone, leaving behind them a crowd of people quietly absorbing the magic of it all. A host of crabs and fish darted in for the leftovers and, for a time, both the humans and the wildlife in that small place in the universe, experienced an incredible feeling of satisfaction.

I was so entranced by it all, that I had to find out why the dolphins came in the first place, so next morning found me interviewing the resort manager, Glenn



Interactions between dolphins and people are legendary and have often been imbued with mystical or spiritual significance by the people involved. Even today dolphin encounters take on a special meaning.
(Photo courtesy of Cloud Nine Productions)

Osborne. Apparently, Tangalooma was a whaling station in the sixties and it was the jetty lights attracting the small fry which originally lured the dolphins in. Glenn can remember watching them twenty years ago. They would also snaffle up the scraps thrown to them by people fishing from the jetty and it seemed a natural progression to see if they would accept hand-feeding. So, the resort staff went into the water and dangled some fish in front of them. Sure enough, in cruised the first dolphin they named Beauty. She was the trailblazer and subsequently has brought three of her pups along with her.

At first, other dolphins would hang around outside until, one by one, they too cruised in. Now there can be as many as ten of these magnificent creatures a night swimming around the legs of the tourists. The resort staff think that the dolphins come in more to make contact rather than for food, since each dolphin is fed only a quarter of its daily intake. Whatever the reason, both humans and dolphins are winners.

While we were there, the staff were on the lookout for a dolphin called Blind Freddy, so named because he was blind. Not long before we arrived, Blind Freddy had come in one night with chunks of flesh missing from what looked like a shark attack. He was being fed specially prepared fish dosed with medication to help him heal. There are also strict guidelines as to the quality of fish the dolphins are fed and no one is allowed to pat them. The object is not to make the dolphins too dependent on people but for them to remain what they are – wild creatures.

With curiosity satisfied, I lined up on the beach that night shivering in a cool breeze and wondering just how cold was that water going to feel; would the dolphins, who home in like high speed guided missiles, remember to stop in time; assuming they did feed from me, would they mistake my hand for the fish; and, if dolphins could swim in such shallow water could sharks also? Eyes straining for a glimpse of the fins to appear out in the darkness, I became aware of the gentle lapping of the waves and the hushed expectancy of the onlookers on the jetty and then all else was forgotten as the dolphin magic began.

Those of us feeding the dolphins had to wash our hands in a solution of Condy's crystals to prevent the transfer of bacteria and we were each given three fish and shown how to hold them. When it was my turn to walk out I forgot about everything and stood entranced as one after the other, three completely wild dolphins came up to me and took my offering. Time seemed to stand still as, one by one, the dolphins silently swam up and, with an infinite gentleness that took me by surprise, accepted the mullett from me and equally silently swam off. For me, it was one of those rare, privileged moments in life; a wild creature had placed its trust in me.

Over the years I've had a variety of experiences, but the magic of feeding those dolphins is something I'll never forget. Hopefully, other people who experience it will feel the same and maybe dolphin feeding programmes are an excellent way of getting the environmental message across, because once you have been trusted by a creature of the wild, you want to return that trust and make sure that no harm can come to it. Who knows, if there were more dolphin feeding programmes around, as at Tangalooma, perhaps dolphins would end up training people to look after the world.

Environmentalists have recently brought the practice of dolphin feeding at Tangalooma and other resorts to the attention of environment minister, Molly Robson. Concerns are that the dolphins are being robbed of their natural hunting and feeding skills and through being fed at the same time and place daily, are in more danger of attracting shark attacks.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has claimed that hand-fed dolphins become fat and unhealthy and their population increases to the extent where they cannot be supported by the naturally available food supply. Hence, the authority has issued guidelines to tourist operators on feeding and composition of food.

CHILDREN AT RISK FROM CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

The Total Environment Centre chose Universal Children's Day (22/10/91) to warn parents that children and the unborn are more at risk from chemical exposure than adults. This point is clearly stated in the new book titled *Chemical Risks and the Unborn: A Parent's Guide* published by the Total Environment Centre. The book aims to inform the general public of the risks posed to the unborn by the chemicals which have become part of our modern lifestyle. The book looks at environmental exposure and pays particular attention to household chemicals and pesticides.

Women are at risk from chemical exposure in the workplace and also at home. The book points out that it is now known that the placenta is not a complete barrier and that some chemicals may harm the sensitive foetus without causing any symptoms in the mother. It is not only women that are at risk. Pesticides and other chemicals damage male sperm and this in turn can result in deformities and other problems. Some of the effects of chemical exposure are very hard to detect. They can include immune disfunction, imbalanced hormone systems and the inability of the child to develop normal intelligence and behaviour.

The Total Environment Centre has been approached by three women who want to warn parents and parents-to-be of the risk of chemical exposure.

- Diane Marshall was aerially sprayed during two pregnancies when living near banana plantations at Coffs Harbour. Both babies suffered gross abnormalities and died shortly after birth.
- Kerry Smith, while working with chlorinated solvents in the screen printing industry, suffered a late miscarriage, the foetus being only half the normal weight.
- Robyn Gillies' third child was born with gross abnormalities and died five weeks after birth. Her other two children were perfectly formed and a subsequent child was also entirely normal. Genetic counselling suggested that her child's deformities were probably due to some form of environmental insult. She finally took another look at the bottle of blackberry and treekiller that she had used immediately before she learnt that she was pregnant with her third child. There, in letters less than 1 millimetre high, she read that the active ingredient of the spray was 2.4 5-T.

Further information contact: Christine Mercer, Ph: 02-247-8476 or Adrienne Kabos, Ph: 02-258-2060.

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LAMBING CARE

In many areas ewes are lambing during winter and early spring when weather conditions can be extremely cold and wet. If this is the case in your area make sure lambing ewes are in a sheltered paddock, easily accessible or close by to allow close supervision. Try to use a paddock which has been unstocked for some time so there is plenty of feed, as food nutrition is vital to pregnant and lactating ewes and their lambs. In very cold areas pregnant ewes often benefit from wearing simple jackets, as can orphaned or stressed lambs.

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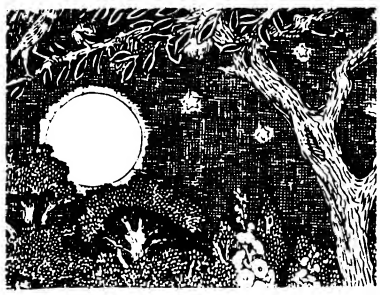
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MOON PLANTING



By M Green

From a talk to the Sunshine Coast Herb Society.

Those who plant by the moon assure us that seeds germinate faster, and plants grow better, remain healthier and resist pests and diseases when planted in the correct phase of the moon. Plants which grow above ground should be planted on a waxing moon, that is in the first and second quarters; if the seed is to be harvested, plant in the second quarter. Root crops should be planted in the week following the full moon. The last quarter should see no planting, but is the time for weeding, trimming, burning, digging etc. After continued weeding in the last quarter, weeds will cease to appear.

To follow this system completely, a knowledge of the zodiac is necessary. There are 12 constellations, in a fixed belt, through which the moon travels in its monthly orbit, remaining in each constellation, or sign of the zodiac, for two or three days. The signs are alternately masculine and feminine, and represent fire, earth, air or water, and each is said to relate to a part of the body. For example Aries is a masculine sign, a fire sign and represents the head, thus it is a barren sign – not good for planting or transplanting.

Planting should take place while the moon is in a fruitful (or fertile) sign, a water sign; the next best sign is a semi-fertile, or earth sign. Thus there are 14 favourable planting days each month, and the best days are those falling in the phase appropriate to the crop being planted. Some believers go so far as to say that even a few hours can make the difference between success and failure!

THE SIGNS

Aries	fire	semibarren
Taurus	earth	semifruitful
Gemini	air	very barren
Cancer	water	very fruitful
Leo	fire	very barren
Virgo	earth	very barren
Libra	air	semifruitful
Scorpio	water	very fruitful
Sagittarius	fire	semibarren
Capricorn	earth	semifruitful
Aquarius	air	semibarren
Pisces	water	very fruitful

GENERAL PLANTING RULES

The days on which the moon changes phase, that is, new moon, first quarter and so on, are reputedly days of great tension, and, as such, are not good for planting and sowing activities. No planting or transplanting should be carried out in a barren sign; this is the time to trim, weed, destroy pests, especially when this occurs in the last quarter.

More Specific Rules

- Plough, till and cultivate in Aries.
- Graft while the moon is waxing, in a fruitful sign, or Capricorn. Never on a Sunday, as this is a barren, hot day – the sun's day!
- Root flower cuttings when the signs are in the knees or feet (Capricorn or Pisces).
- Never transplant in the head or the heart, as these are death (Aries or Leo).
- Don't plant potatoes in the feet (Pisces), as they will develop little 'toes' all over the main potato; the best time is a dark night in March (northern hemisphere) – probably September here.

Reaping and Harvesting

Pick fruit, harvest crops and gather seed on the waning moon, bruised spots and blemishes will dry up rather than rot, which occurs if picked on an increasing moon.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There are other activities which should be done by the moon:

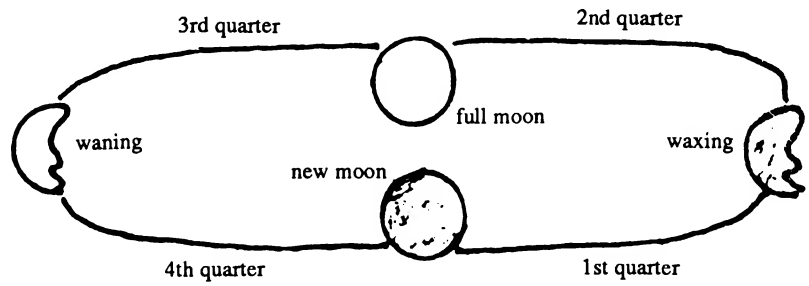
Paint in a dry, airy sign; set eggs to hatch in a fruitful sign; stop habits on the second day that the moon is in Sagittarius, on the new moon, or in Pisces; set fence posts on the old of the moon to prevent loosening. Parasitic worm activity is greatest at full moon so treatment at this time will be most effective.

EXPLANATIONS

Well, this is planting by the moon, or by the signs. If it works – and many people believe that it does – there must be a scientific explanation. It probably ties in with the forces which the moon and the earth exert on one another: gravity (the centripetal force) and the centrifugal force, equal and opposite, which maintain the moon and the earth in a state of equilibrium. These forces vary through the moon's cycle, although minutely, depending on the relative positions of the sun and the moon. When the sun and moon are on line (new and full moon) gravity is least.

It is known that the moon is responsible for tides in large bodies of water, very high and very low tides occurring at times of greatest gravity. Perhaps this phenomenon also applies to all fluids, including sap in plants, and body fluids in animals, and in some way this may be responsible for improved growth and the way animals and humans respond to the full moon. It may, of course, be due to increased amounts of light.

Some people may prefer the more fanciful explanation. The new moon may be seen as the seed-moment; when the moon is as far as possible from the sun (full moon), that which has been hidden is revealed, the growth climax occurs. During the increasing period, everything flows out of the dark into the light, the accent is on top growth. While the moon is decreasing, going from light to dark, it is time for the development of a strong root system. The last quarter is the time when energy is channelled into conserving and protecting, rather than growing.



This is why it is the time to destroy weeds and pests, as the life forces are minimal and regrowth is made more difficult.

I don't know if it does work; I do know that sometimes cuttings strike in two weeks, sometimes they take two months, and sometimes they die! These are cuttings from the same varieties, treated as near as possible in the same way, but not allowing for the fact that increased humidity speeds up the striking time. Since I have been planting on a waxing moon, I have had better success, although there are still some failures. To date, I have not been using the signs, so perhaps this will give me total success.

A local couple have been planting by the moon for over 20 years, mostly small crops. In one season, from 6000 strawberry plants, one tonne of fruit was picked each month, the plants were healthier and attacked by fewer pests than in previous years.

A local farmer told me of his chance discovery that three times the number of pineapples were harvested in the week following the full moon as in the remaining weeks. This occurred over a period of some months.

So there it is. It may or may not appeal to all, but until proven otherwise, there is no harm done by following the principles. If nothing else, it forms a nice cycle of planting, harvesting and weeding, with something to be done in your garden each week.

This article was originally printed in *Herbology*, the newsletter of the Australian Herb Society Inc, from a talk given to the Sunshine Coast Herb Association. Enquiries regarding *Herbology* and the Australian Herb Society Inc can be directed to: PO Box 110, Mapleton 4560.

For anyone interested in trying moon planting for themselves GR52 contained a cut-out moon planing guide, which is clearly set out and easy to use, making it much easier to work out when to do what. You will also need a calendar showing phases of the moon. Back copies of GR are $4 including postage. Use the form on page 43.

Southern Holdings produce an organic gardening guide and calendar which includes a moon planting guide. $9, posted. Address: PO Box 6, Huonvale 7109.Phone or fax: 002-664-112. They also have a book, *Complete Organic Gardening*, which has a section on the various methods of moon planting, with detailed directions. $17.10 posted.

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MOON LORE, FACT OR FAIRYTALE?

The moon can influence many aspects of our lives, apart from guiding us as to favourable, or unfavourable, times to plant, dig, weed, harvest our gardens. Whether you take the subject seriously or think it is a bit of a joke you might like to try some of the following moon lore, just out of interest.

- Treat or cut corns when the moon is in the third or fourth quarter.
- Start a diet when the moon is waning (decreasing).
- Hair cuts and perms should be done during the first quarter of the waxing (increasing) moon.
- Schedule surgery one week before or after the full moon to reduce the chance of haemorrhaging.
- Buy natural remedies when the moon is in Scorpio.
- A tree cut at full moon is likely to split.
- Remove bark from trees in the first quarter of the moon in June or July.
- Never trim a bonsai plant in the dark of the moon (new moon).
- Sweep spiders and moths out of the house at the new moon.
- Medicines and remedies work better and quicker at full moon.
- If you give birth to a baby boy on the wane of the moon, you will have a girl next.
- Boy babies should be weaned during the waxing moon, girls during the waning, and both should receive their final nursing at the full moon.

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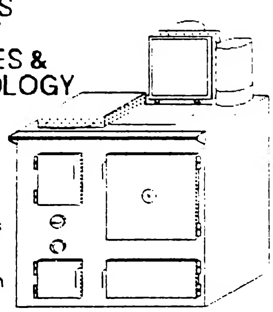
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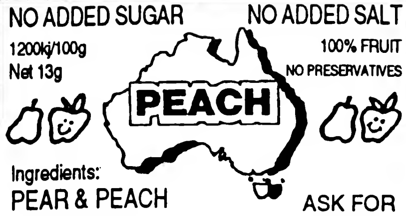
Government recognition has recently been granted to the Australian Horticultural Correspondence School through the State Training Board, Victoria (Department of Employment and Training). As such, the school now becomes one of a relatively small number of private colleges registered and approved by government to operate in the same area a TAFE. The move has distinct benefits for students, making credit transfers and recognition of courses between this college and government colleges a far simpler matter than it ever was in the past. In addition to recognition as a 'Commercial Provider of Vocational Education and Training Courses' the school has also been granted approval to deliver the accredited course 3300FA, Advanced Certificate in Horticulture. This same certificate has been conducted by government colleges since the mid 1980s. AHCS will however offer most of this course by correspondence study. Some practical requirements will need to be met by students attending one or more workshops in Melbourne or the Gold Coast. Enrolments will be accepted for students to begin studies at any time of the year, as this course is totally funded by student fees (approximately $2500, all inclusive), there are no quotas. Anyone with reasonable reading and writing skills, and the commitment to study will be accepted.

For further details contact: Australian Horticultural Correspondence School, PO Box 2092, NERANG EAST 4211. Ph: 075-304-855 or 264 Swansea Rd, LILYDALE 3140.

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HANDMADE BESOMS

By Robin Jean, Braidwood, NSW.

Besoms pronounced 'beezms' are a traditional European yard or outdoor broom and besom making in the good old days was usually a full-time job for one person in a village. Indeed, people were still earning their living making besoms until about the Second World War and they are so well liked that even today you can still buy artificial, plastic besoms in some European countries.

But it is an easy matter to construct a modern day besom from materials ready to hand. And the resultant sweeper is great; often better than a bought millet broom. Ideally the materials for the besom should be cut a week or so in advance of construction. This gives them a chance to dry out so that less shrinkage and accompanying problems occur in the final product.

Traditionally the head of a besom was made from the finer twiggy branches of birch trees, but many other materials can be used, including those all-time favourites with people on the land, English or Scottish broom. You can also make besoms from any flexible but sturdy branches. We use prunings from the Davesia species that grow and become a fire hazard every summer around our house paddock.

Cut the branches at a point where the stems are about as thick as your little finger. If you are using broom (the plant) branches ensure that they are not the first soft spring growth since the resultant broom head will be also be soft and weak. Lay them in the sun to dry for a few weeks.

The handle can be made from any type of bush timber. Skinny eucalypt seedlings are ideal. Look for some that have germinated and grown thickly after a fire has ravaged some bush or where a forest tree has fallen. The handles need to be reasonably straight though a slight curve can make the resultant handle rather more pleasant to use. With the bark still attached they need to be slightly larger than a comfortable handle size.

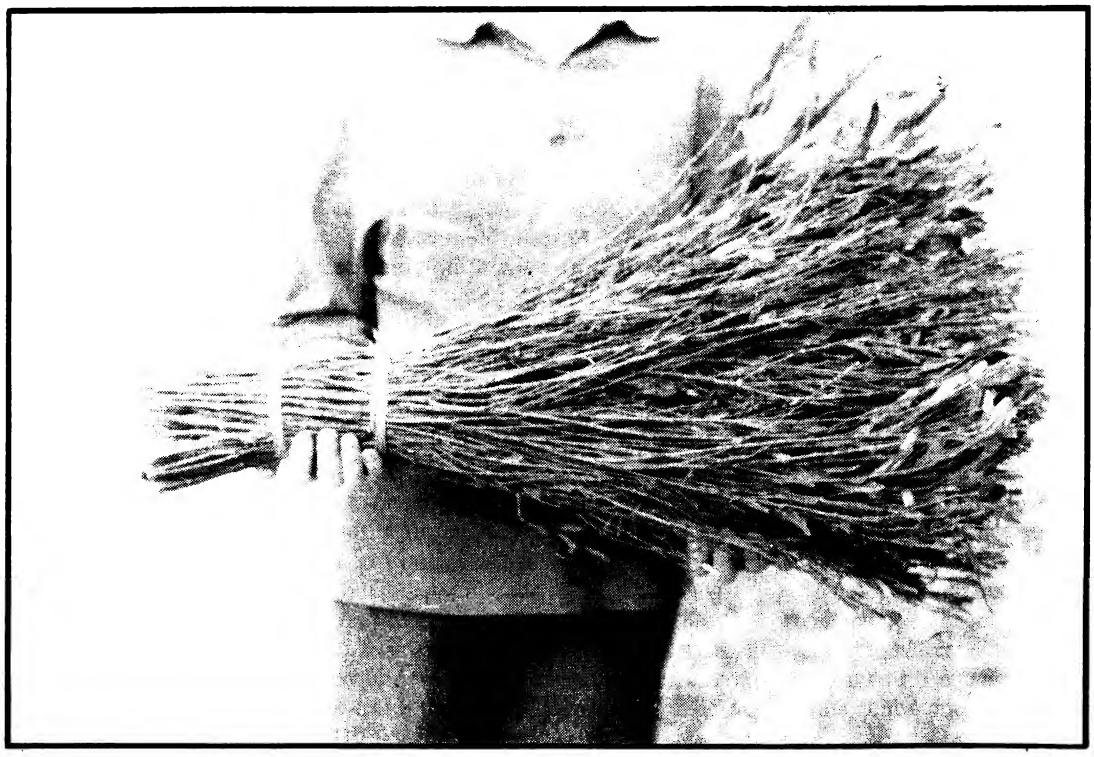
Skin any bark from the stick while it is green since dried out bark is much harder to remove. Use a tomahawk or a draw knife (a curved blade with two handles on the sides) to sharpen the business end of the handle to a good point. Clamp one end of the handle in a vice and shape the point by pulling the draw knife along the stick towards you. If you don't have access to a draw knife you can use an axe, tomahawk or machete. Just don't aim the axe at yourself but place the end of the handle on a block of wood and aim it downwards.

The point should be about 10 centimetres long. Make sure that the handle is straight just before the point. If it isn't the broom head will be askew when you attach it. Rasp off any sharp edges or projections so that the handle will be comfortable to hold. Lightly sand it.

The next step is to make the broom head. In the old days natural fibre such as very thin hazel was used to bind the head. It was split to make it more pliable and used quite a bit for binding barrels and other similar tasks. Modern day besom makers use tie wire.

When the branches for the broom head have dried select the best and chop them off at the stalky end so that they are between five and ten millimetres in diameter. Bundle them so that they form a neat head without twigs poking out at all angles.

Take a three or four metre length of tie wire and attach it to something solid: your house, shed, a fence post or heavy



A besom head made from twiggy branches, tied together in two places about 10 centimetres apart, ready for the handle to be inserted.



With one end of the handle sharpened to a point, attach the head to it.



You can make besoms to suit any size of user, or any type of job.

car are suitable. Then carry your bundle of twigs to the free end of the wire. Wrap the wire about three-quarters of a turn around the stalky end of the bundle. Poke the end of the wire right through the bundle. Make sure it doesn't pass directly through the centre and allow the free end to project which could cause problems later with your handle. Lightly twist the free end around the rest of the wire.

Next, begin to roll the bundle along the wire. As you make each complete turn pull hard to tighten the wire. The wire must be as tight as you can make it so that the broom does not fall apart at the first sweep.

Keep each turn of wire close to the last to ensure a neater job. When you have made four complete turns, hold the wire tight and cut it from the long length. Twist the two free ends together and flatten them against the bundle of broom so that they cannot catch on anything, particularly your hands or clothing when you are sweeping.

Repeat this effort 10 centimetres further down the broom head.

Then use a handsaw to cut the thicker ends of the stalks about five centimetres above the top wire and with a tomahawk trim the leafy end square or to whatever shape you think most suitable.

Next, attach the head to the handle. Mark a spot about 20 centimetres down from the point. Rest the blunt end of the handle on the ground and, holding the bundle, jam it over the point, forcing it into the centre of the head. When it is firmly fixed, hold the broom by its handle and hit it down onto a firm surface. The broom head will force its way down the handle, further tightening the wire at the same time.

Measure the handle for length and cut it off. It can then be rounded off at the blunt end with some abrasive paper or a rasp so that it doesn't dig into your hand.

And that's it. Besoms don't take long to construct; maybe 15 or 20 minutes if you are a beginner, less once you have some experience. Traditional broom makers would have made around 50 sweepers a day. It sounds like a lot for any one village but they were used for everything, including sweeping roads.

Besoms can be tailored to suit your height and strength. They can be large, stiff outdoors brooms used for sweeping the garden path or snow from the roof. Or they can be little hand brooms for cleaning obscure corners. They are excellent for brushing spider webs from the outside of the house since the head does not become clogged with webs.

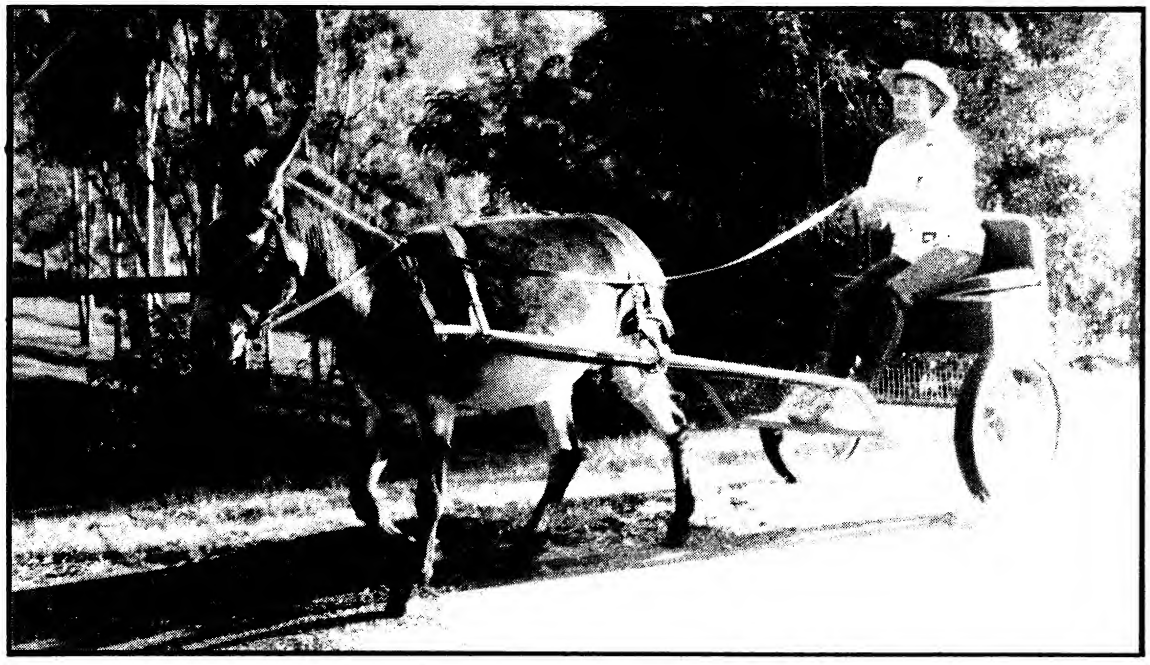
Make one and try it out. You may even be able to reduce your weed problems and earn a little ready cash if you decide to sell your product around the local neighbourhood.

GERMAN GR SEEKS HELP

Jorg is a German electrician and university student, with a interest in farming (dairy/sheep/working & saddle horses), and with some dairying experience. In July, he and his son, Karl (5), would like to begin a six month period gaining practical experience on an Australian farm. Anyone able to help in any way with information/suggestions/work offers, can fax him on: (Germany) 33631-3984, or write to: Jorg Rudolph, Steinstrobe 1, Bad Saarow, 15526, Germany.

A PIPE DONKEY CART

By Margaret Smith, Kenilworth, Qld.



Smokey, harnessed up to the cart, enjoys an outing taking Margaret to do some shopping.

This cart is inexpensive, lightweight, very robust and surprisingly comfortable. As the shafts are bent it is a 'step through model', very safe and easy to get into and out of.

BUILDING THE CART

Materials

You will need two identical large, second-hand motorbike wheels. These are mounted on a stub axle made from 25 millimetre square tube steel.

The shafts are made from 18 millimetre yellow band galvanised pipe, which is carefully bent, as shown in the diagrams, before being welded to the axle.

Framing and bracing of the cart are all steel and can be made from whatever 18 to 25 millimetre profiles you have available.

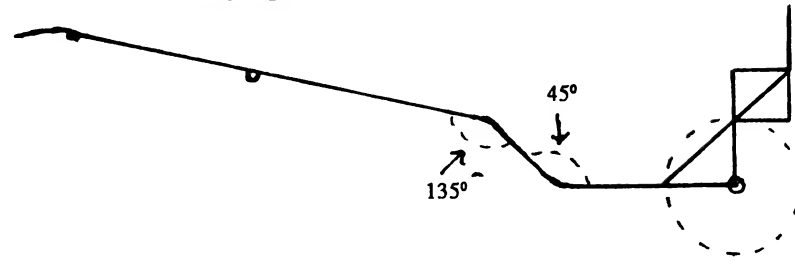
Dash, floor, wheel guards and floor back are all constructed from 25 millimetre galvanised weldmesh for safety, durability and ease of cleaning.

The seat and seat back are constructed of 12 millimetre marine/exterior grade plywood. A 250 millimetre deep section under the seat has been boxed in and fitted with a rear door of the same material, to provide a very handy boot.

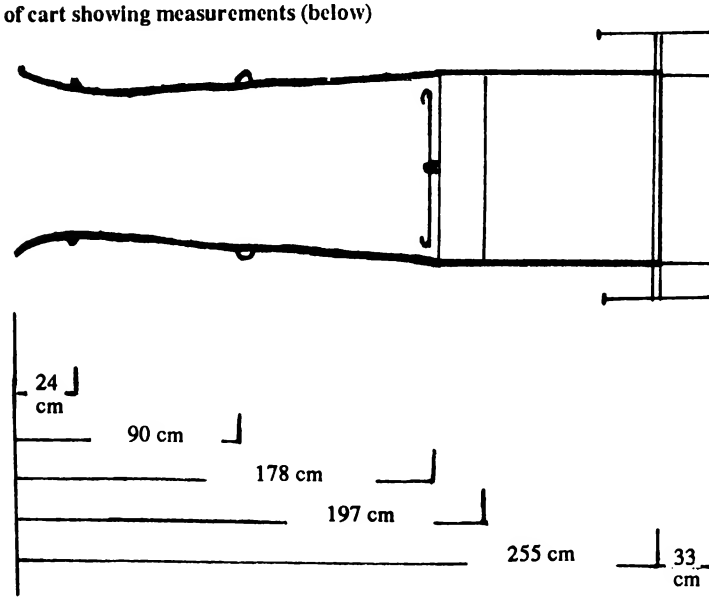
Measurements

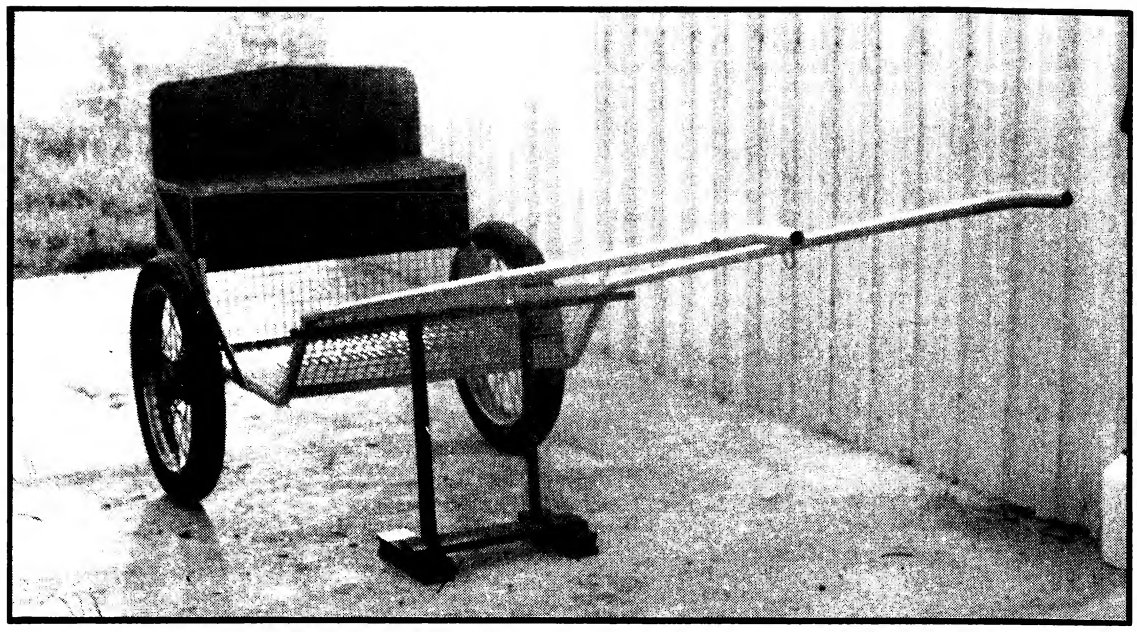
All measurements (see diagrams and measurements opposite) are taken from the cart illustrated, perfect for donkeys 10½ to 12½ hands high and accomodating

Side view of cart showing angles

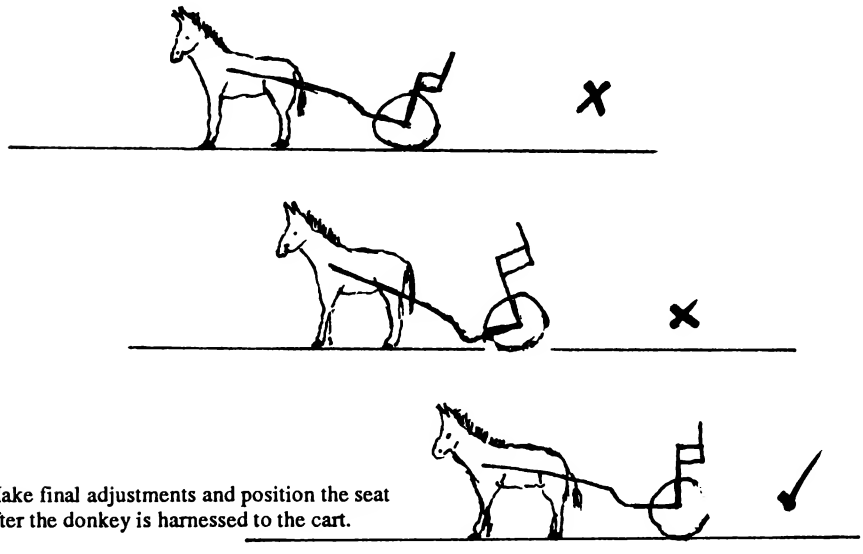


Plan of cart showing measurements (below)





The finished cart, which has been in regular service for five years.



Make final adjustments and position the seat after the donkey is harnessed to the cart.

one large or two smaller adults comfortably. This cart has been used regularly for five years without showing any sign of structural weakness.

Height of seat above floor – 43 cm.
Width of seat, floor, etc – 75 cm.
Length of axle – 85 cm.
Diameter of wheels incl tyres – 63 cm.
Width between shafts at tug stops – 48 cm.

Getting it right

The steel swingle bar is fitted to the leading edge of the dash giving a nice straight line of draught.

Final adjustments and the exact positioning of the seat are made after the cart is able to be fitted to the donkey (on a level surface) to achieve the all-important correct balance of the whole unit.

The seat is built behind the axle so that the weight of the seat and driver counterbalance the weight of the cart and shafts. When the driver is seated comfortably upright there should only be slight downward weight felt at the tug stops. The harness should be adjusted so that the shafts lie halfway up the donkey's rib cage; at this height the cart seat and floor must be level. There should be approximately 60 centimetres clearance from the donkey's back legs to the swingle bar.

When the final adjustments are made you will be ready to start painting. Don't forget to thoroughly rustproof all the welded joints. Removable padded cushions for seat and back, colour co-ordinated of course, will add the final touch to your creation and turn heads when you drive into town to do your shopping.



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The Profitable Forest

By Herman Odijk B.A.(UNE), Grad.Dip.Tax(UCQ)

PART 1

Farming is not necessarily the growing of conventional crops, including fruit, or raising animals. Farming is a general term for operating a farming business and farmland is a resource (land), which is used in the operation of that business. Farming can also be undertaken as a hobby as I explained in my two-part article *Minimising Your Tax* which appeared in GRs 97 & 98, but in that case the rules of the game are different.

In this article the emphasis is on farming as a business – specifically the growing of trees, with the aim of making a profit and, that being so, certain taxation advantages apply. This form of farming (primary production) is sometimes referred to as agroforestry, and includes the establishment, maintenance and logging (harvesting) of a man-made forest.

Planting a forest for the purpose of selling the trees when fully grown has many advantages. But of course, planting trees does not have to be done for the sole purpose of logging them later for profit. Trees can also be planted for other reasons and benefits such as for control of land degradation and prevention of soil erosion. Expenses incurred with these kinds of projects can be claimed as a tax deduction in the year that such expenses were incurred. (Please note that all sections quoted in this article refer to sections of the Australian Income Tax Assessment Act.)

For example:

If you spent (say) $1000 before June 30 1994 for preparing a site and planting trees for the purpose of controlling land degradation, the $1000 can be declared (claimed) in your 1993/1994 tax return as a legitimate taxation expense (Section 75D(1)). Note, if you prepared the site and planted trees after June 30 1994 you would claim these expenses on your 1994/1995 tax return, and so on. If it cost you (say) $500 per year to maintain these trees (watering, weed control etc.) then the $500 is also claimed in your tax return as an expense in subsequent years.

In other words, it is not necessary to produce an income from the planted trees as these have been planted for the sole purpose of controlling land degradation.

Trees can be planted to establish windbreaks, animal shelters, tree fodder and/or to improve water quality in the area. Research as case studies carried out by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Department of Agriculture and the CSIRO show that where tree shelter has been provided, this lowered lambing losses and increased productivity of the primary production undertaken. The case which needs to be presented to the Australian Taxation Office (if that is necessary), is that the establishment of trees for these purposes is a necessary expense incurred for the purpose of generating farm income. (Expenses in this situation are claimed under section 51.)

If you plant trees for these purposes then you must be able to prove that the planting of trees is related to the farm's production programme. So you should photograph the area after you have prepared the site and again after you planted the trees. Keep these photographs with your taxation papers or somewhere safe, so they can be produced should the Taxation Office ask you to substantiate the expenses which have been recorded in your taxation returns.



If you intend to log a number of trees from the windbreak or animal shelter, then you can claim other related expenses, such as the purchase or hire of a chainsaw, as a tax deduction in the year that you paid for the equipment. (Note: if you purchase a chain saw which costs more than $300 you can depreciate it over a number of years. An accountant can work this out for you.) If you do not cut or mill the trees yourself, but instead hire an experienced miller to do that for you, expenses again can be claimed as a tax deduction.

Some tree varieties are suitable to be sold as fence posts, others as railway sleepers, woodchips, building timber and so on, and income from the sale of the logged trees is added to your farm income on the tax return, in the year that you actually received the income.

Even if your trees were planted for a specified purpose, such as weather protection for animals or improving degraded land, if the trees become too dense you still need to selectively manage this plantation to enable the stronger trees to do better. Although trees do have a long life it is also limited, some will fall over or lose their limbs, and these trees can be milled before the other trees are mature. Managing a farm also includes the removal of limbs and trees to enable other growth to take its place or to make the site safe for the animals which graze and shelter beneath them.

PLANTING A FOREST

Trees are also grown in order to gain an income, either by selling the mature trees to a sawmill or by processing the mature trees yourself. Either system has specific taxation advantages and the growing of trees as a forest operation is classified as being primary production for taxation purposes.

To grow a forest for the purpose of gaining an income from the mature trees (or limbs if the trees need pruning) can be done as sustainable agriculture. That is, the forest was originally planted to provide not only shelter for animals, to improve the land it was planted on, to attract native animal and bird life – thereby improving quality of life of the human beings living nearby – but also enabled these human beings to live from the income generated by selling or processing the mature trees. The trees as they mature will have served many needs and purposes.

What sustainable agriculture means in

this case is that you do not cut down more trees than you plant but you sustain the forest (and your income), by planting more trees than you cut, otherwise the balance will be destroyed. That sustainable forest agriculture is possible was shown by a Canadian farmer who planted a 55 hectare lot with wildwood in 1939. The total planted area, it was estimated, contained about 1,500,000 linear metres of millable timber. Since 1960 the farmer and his family logged 1,378,292 linear metres of millable timber which provided a third of the family's income. This was possible only because they planted double the number of trees which they logged each year, thereby ensuring that they did not overlog their forest. (Doubling the number of trees planted ensured that enough survived to mature trees.)

They made certain that the forest kept producing millable timber by managing the forest in a proper sustainable way. They minimised road construction and always logged the trees (within the constraints imposed by trees, soils, and topography) themselves. They made sure that they did not disturb the wildlife living in their forest. The birds of their forest controlled the pests so there was no need for spraying. The family also considered these practices made sound economic sense as they never cut over the annual growth rate. They regarded their forest as their bank account (capital). The annual growth as their interest on investment, and money to live on. The annual growth is still only the part milled each year. The forest is still producing today and is expected to produce for a long time to come. It is good sustainable (forest) agriculture in practice!

Whether you grow millable timber for a sawmill operator or process the timber yourself, there are certain guidelines you have to keep in mind in order to accommodate the Australian Taxation Office. A forest operation, according the Taxation Office, is a commercial timber operation which grows mainly radiatia pine. But it should be noted that commercial millers and plantation operators also grow poplar on a large scale and many other species, so I suggest you contact your local Forestry Department for advice on various commercial species.

Also, according to the Taxation Office guidelines:

• The plantation should prefcrably be located close to the main milling/market source to gain maximum returns. The further you have to transport the logged timber the higher your costs thus making the operation less viable.

• Returns from logging radiata pine are obtained at intervals over the life of the forest by thinning at approximately 12 years and further thinnings every five to seven years. The major financial return occurs at the final clear-felling at 35 to 45 years.

It should be kept in mind that the Australian Taxation Office prepared the above guidelines on advice from the Forestry Commision and other consultants, and they regard a commercial forest as finite. However, that this does not have to be so, was shown above by the example of the Canadian farmer and his family. Their argument was that sustainable (forest) agriculture can be infinite if properly managed.

The taxation advantages for forest operations are the same as those for primary producers generally. That is, the Income Tax Assessment Act states that forest operations qualify as primary production (Section 6(1)). Meaning that taxpayers who carry on these operations are entitled to the benefits of the various provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act which apply to taxpayers engaged in the business of primary production. (Or, in the case of GR small landholders see GRs 97 & 98 for the basic tax deductions.)

However, if it is your wish to embark on any of the above discussed projects for the reason of gaining a taxation benefit, it is important to discuss them first with your accountant and/or solicitor before you start, as rules, regulations and laws often change, and it may be possible that you do not get the full benefit you thought you were going to get.

In the next issue I will discuss how a forest operation should be set up and operated according to business and taxation principles.

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A MOVABLE BUSH DUNNY

By Linda Marold, Guildford, Vic.

When we first moved out to our bush block, some fifteen years ago, we communed with nature using the time honoured method of the shovel and toilet roll. After some time however, we became aware that some of our friends and relatives looked askance at this, and, I must admit that sometimes I too found midnight dashes in the rain somewhat less than charming! It was at this point we received a momentous letter. My husband's uncle, a most beloved relative, was about to arrive on a visit from his home in Germany. Now I don't want to seem derogatory, but we didn't think he would be able to cope well with being handed a shovel and toilet roll and being told to go bush!

So we were committed to the idea of a dunny, but of what kind? We considered various options, but neither of us wanted a bucket for the simple reason that once, while carrying a much too-full-bucket between us on a pole, the bottom suddenly gave way and we were both splashed from thigh to ankle with a wave of awfulness which then spread out and made our backyard a no-go zone for a month.

With this sobering experience in mind we began to consider the merits of an army-style deep trench latrine. If you have to bury a bucket why not deposit human refuse in situ? But a deep trench latrine is a huge amount of work and we weren't sure that the ground water would be safe from contamination. We still liked the idea of a bucketless hole in the ground but we didn't want a much larger hole than a post hole. This meant that the dunny would have to be moved from hole to hole, thus spreading the load on the soil, and enabling us to increase the fertility of our block by not wasting our own byproducts!

So what we came up with was what still seems to me to be a most ingenious idea, and I've never seen one quite like it. Basically it is a light, A-frame, built of slender bush poles (approximately 3-4 centimetres in diameter) and corrugated iron, with a seat that is positioned over each hole. A piece of corrugated iron is bent around underneath the seat to form a splashguard. Four carrying handles protrude at about knee height and it is a simple matter for four adults to pick it up and move it to a new site, even quite a long way. It could be made even lighter by using aluminium sheets instead of iron (or even by using pine instead of hardwood saplings, but I think this would reduce its lifespan.

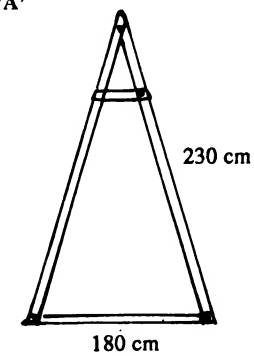
INSTRUCTIONS

What You Need

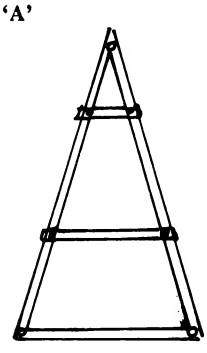
We used yellow box saplings for our bush poles, stripping them of their bark and working them while still green.

- two, 180 cm bush poles
- four, 230 cm bush poles
- four, 150 cm bush poles
- two, 250 cm bush poles
- four, 230 cm corrugated iron or aluminium sheeting
- 24 bolts with nuts and washers – You'll have to work out how long and what diameter they should be according to your pole thickness.
- Extra lengths of bush poles for bracing.
- A piece of timber that will fit across the width of the A-frame at knee height to be the seat. Cut out a hole in the middle.
- A piece of fibreglass to be the window, however big you like.
- An extra piece of corrugated iron for the back.

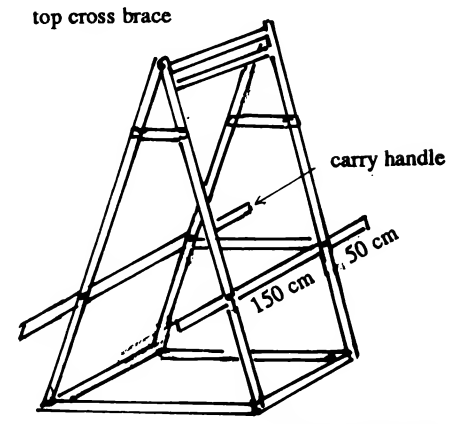
Front 'A'



Back 'A'



Frame Completed



- A length of ridge capping for the apex.
- Nails for attaching iron and ridge capping.

Please note: all lengths are approximate, and some leeway is intrinsic in the design. Just build it as you go and you can decide the details yourself.

How To Do It

First construct the two A-shapes, using two 230 cm poles and one 180 cm pole for each 'A', drilling holes and bolting them together. Brace one across the middle, and about 20 cm from the apex. Brace the other only at the apex.

Next, stand the A-sections up, 150 cm apart, and prop them. Bolt on the 250 cm carrying poles at knee height, making sure there is a 50 cm carrying handle at each end.

Bolt on the two 150 cm bottom braces and the two 150 cm top braces.

You now have the basic frame which is light, strong and easily carried.

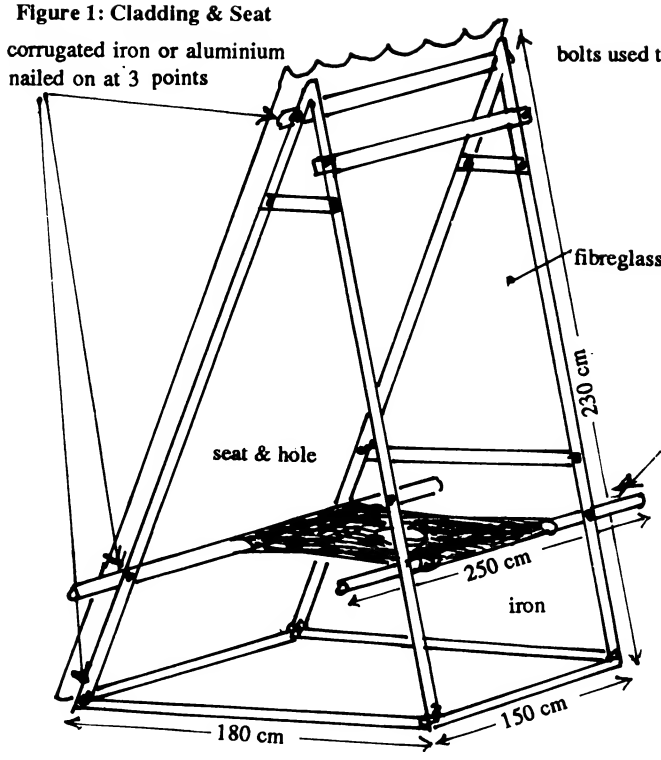
Next fit the seat, which you can nail or bolt on to the carry handles (see fig 1).

Now comes the 'skin'. Cut out the corrugated fibreglass in an A-shape to fit from the apex to the centre back brace (see fig 2). Also cut out the lower section from corrugated iron or aluminium, and nail or bolt both sections to complete the back.

Nail on the corrugated iron or aluminium sheets to fill in the sides, overlapping about three corrugations (see figs 1 & 2).

The ridge capping completes the construction except for the splash guard below the seat which is corrugated iron bent to form a cylinder reaching to the

Figure 1: Cladding & Seat



Each triangle should be approximately two metres tall, and 180 centimetres at the base.

Figure 2: Back View

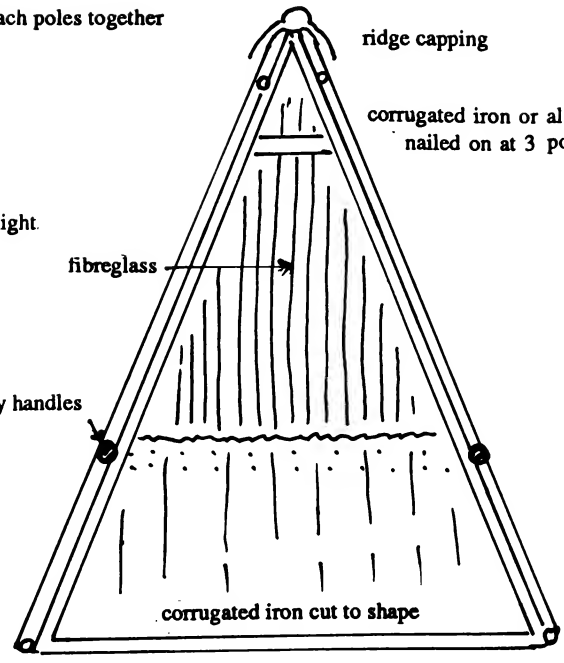
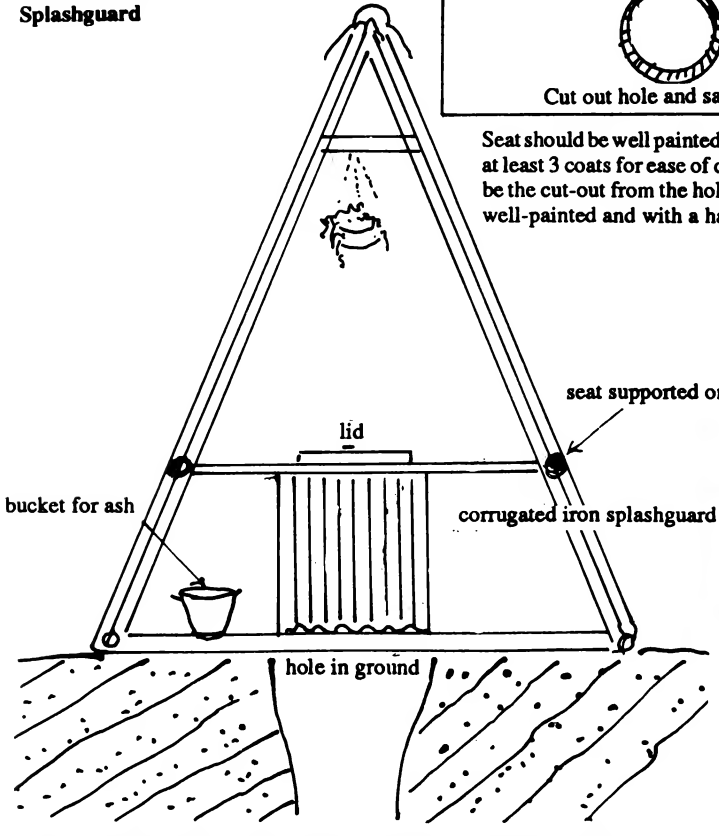
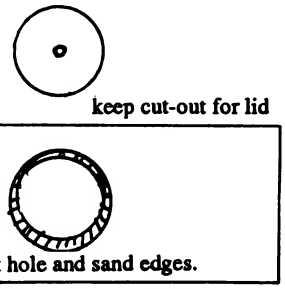


Figure 3: Front View of Seating & Splashguard



You can dig the hole as deep as you like, but it should be at least a metre!

Seat



Seat should be well painted with a gloss enamel, at least 3 coats for ease of cleaning, The lid can be the cut-out from the hole, sanded to fit, also well-painted and with a handle.

edge of the hole and attached to the underneath of the seat with angle iron.

Last Thoughts

We've never bothered to make a door because we face the dunny to get the best view! If you're very modest you can arrange a curtain or screen, or a flag to indicate occupancy.

A bucket of clean wood ash, sawdust or fine dry soil, with a small scoop should be provided to sprinkle down the hole after use, to discourage fly problems and aid decomposition.

Don't wait till the hole is full before moving on, and remember to put back the topsoil last when filling in. Happy digging!

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Turkeys and Guinea Fowl for Insect Control

By Megg Miller, Shepparton, Vic.

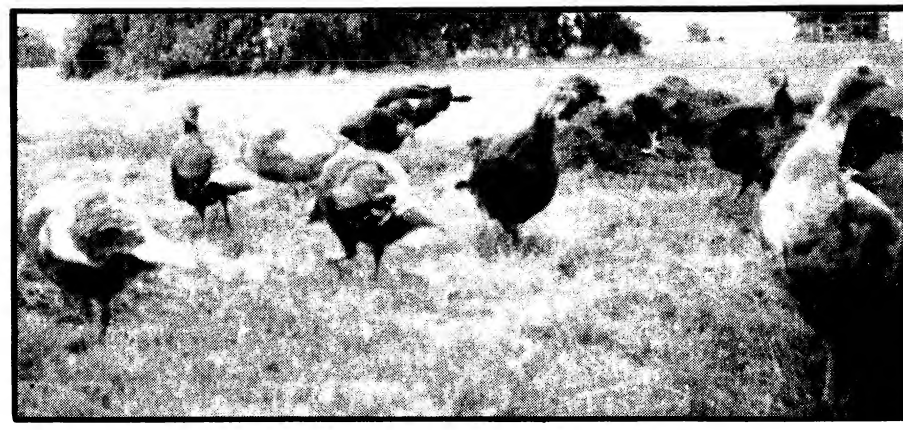
In previous issues of *Grass Roots* we have looked at the effectiveness of several avian species in the garden. Initially, we discussed the role of fowls, and in particular, the suitability of some breeds over others due to temperament or physical characteristics. Examples included crested breeds, the crests acting to obscure the birds' vision, and short legged breeds, which are less mobile because of their leg length.

Both of these characteristics result in less active, and therefore less destructive behaviour in your garden. This was followed by an evaluation of ducks and their effectiveness in combating slugs and snails, and finally, the utilisation of geese in established orchards to keep grass short or for specialised weeding of garden plots.

This issue we continue the series with a discussion on two species which still exist in wild flocks in their native countries, surviving by living off a plethora of insects, grubs, seeds and shoots. We're referring to turkeys and guinea fowl, of course, which, despite originating in totally different parts of the world, were often confused by early naturalists and consequently share a similar name – *Meleagris gallopavo* (turkeys) and *Numida meleagris* (guineas).

Compared to the other poultry species we've discussed, both strongly retain their wild instincts. They enjoy foraging widely, prefer roosting in trees at night regardless of weather conditions, and the hens are very secretive about where they lay their eggs. It's not uncommon for hens of both breeds to turn up out of the blue with a clutch of day olds.

Neither breed are town birds, their temperament and characteristics unsuited to the demands of suburbia. Turkeys are too big and active for the confines of a house block and, unless you keep the relatively immobile commercial variety, may be inclined to fly over fences if frightened or bored. Guineas are highly strung and pace incessantly in small quarters, and have the ability to take off vertically when startled, thus escaping from uncovered enclosures. They are also extremely noisy, responding to stimuli around them with a rally of unpleasant shrieking. Finally, guineas fail to breed well in captivity, a fact many poultry keepers are unaware of. They require considerable room for their energetic and elaborate premating rituals and if this is denied, fertility is usually low.



A flock of turkeys hunting through pasture for insects.

There are success stories of people keeping single birds of either species in suburban backyards, but it should be remembered that they are flock birds by nature and may suffer loneliness if kept on their own.

TURKEYS

Turkeys are the birds to consider if your locality suffers from regular insect plagues. Their success is due in part to the species' innate preference for insects and beetles, but also to the appropriate timing of their natural breeding cycle. The young are predominantly hatched from early spring through to early summer, and are hungry adolescents when insects reach unmanageable proportions during the period from high summer through to autumn. The young are best for control purposes, being highly motivated by instinct and appetite, older birds often lacking incentive and the necessary youthful energy to forage across the paddocks.

There are several stories worthy of recounting which illustrate the capabilities of this species. Thirty years ago a number of farms in the Western District (Vic) kept flocks of turkeys to control annual cricket plagues. These insects lived in the cracks in the earth and ate the roots of the summer pastures. When the youngsters from these farms were coerced to slowly drive the turkeys backwards and forwards across the paddocks, the birds were reputed to be very effective in catching crickets.

At Cordinup (WA) in 1988, a forestry company began using young turkeys to control grasshoppers and spring beetles amongst their 500,000 blue gum and karri seedlings. Tired of the expense and damage from pesticides, the owners tried the turkeys and found them an outstanding success. Despite the costs involved in having to ship the birds over from the eastern states the company had plans of increasing their turkey numbers to 4000 birds. They were also pleased with the healthy return when the birds were eventually marketed.

A lesser known attribute of this species is their consummate skill at eliminating the spread of thistles. Thirty or forty years ago it was common to see flocks of turkeys being herded from farm to farm to clean up thistle heads before the seed dispersed. In spite of all the exercise the birds received they were reputed to grow plump on this seed.

One of the most efficient ways of using them is to either buy in or breed young stock so you have the optimum numbers of birds when you most need them . If you're buying in stock, buy 'off heat', that is, when the poults are 6-8 weeks and no longer require artificial heat. At this age they can gradually be introduced to the range, but still need locking up at night for warmth and security. They can be trained to follow you to facilitate easy movement from their night quarters to the orchard or garden. Feed them sparingly in the morning so they want to get out and hunt, but offer mixed grains or a substantial ration at night to ensure good growth and an incentive to

return to their shed. You may want to allow them to roost in trees when they're older, in which case the feed should be sited nearby.

A couple of hens will hatch and rear all the young ones you need – and be happy to do the raising and educating. The hens will rear one or two batches per season, and should manage to raise two-thirds of the clutch. Losses could be expected to occur as a result of chilling, drowning in waterers, becoming separated from the hen, especially at dusk, or from predator attack. Mother hens teach the young what they can and cannot eat, and are habitual in where they go and what they do during their day. The young will stay with the mother until they reach adulthood, and become absorbed into the larger flock. A hen with young is not as destructive around the garden as a broody chook and chicks. Turkeys don't scratch, which is a blessing, although their large feet may cause havoc. You can anticipate a turkey hen and young reducing the insect and grub population on plants, eliminating blowflies that may be lurking in shady areas, enjoying the lush growth of the lawn, and pulling up or deleafing young seedlings, be they vegetable or flower varieties. The latter must be protected by wire frames if they are to survive.

Once the insect population has been reduced, you will want to remove the birds from the garden. Be prepared to lock them up for a period or remove them to a part of the property where they cannot easily access the garden. Without these measures you will find the little flock faithfully return to their 'hunting' ground every day!

Obviously, it is easier if you can control grasshoppers and beetles at the fence line of the garden. The birds will collect their prey before it reaches the garden and you are not faced with the problem of relocating stock that is sure it is supposed to be inside.



GUINEA FOWL

Guineas are surprisingly similar to turkeys in many ways, and are just as successful at reducing insect populations. They are not as easy to handle however, as adults, and less likely to be herded in and out of sheds or orchards successfully. They best suit a situation where minimum supervision is required.

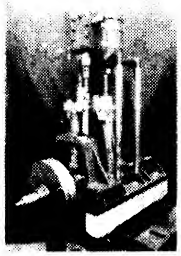
Guineas are raised by both parents, who are extremely protective but quite oblivious to the needs of their tiny chicks, which often die through dehydration or exhaustion. If you wish to have a flock of guineas around the garden or orchard, consider obtaining off heat chicks, or arrange to buy one or two settings of eggs and place them under a reliable broody fowl or turkey. Surprisingly, a mixture of half guinea – half turkey eggs under a turkey hen works very well, the guinea chicks growing up believing they are turkeys. They will forage and hunt with their adopted family until adulthood, and even then it will take time for the bonding to weaken.

If you have a serious problem with grasshoppers or beetles and want to obtain a guinea flock to reduce them, try and obtain as many males as possible. The hens will lay and sit on eggs several times over the breeding season, which stretches from September through to February. As likely as not they will set in a vulnerable place and be taken by a fox. In addition, guineas enjoy monogomous relationships (even if on occasions this is stretched a little to include several wives), so not only do you have a hen (or two or three) off work, but their mates will also down tools and sit with them from dawn to dusk. A bachelor group is virtually essential if you want to eliminate disproportionately high insect populations.

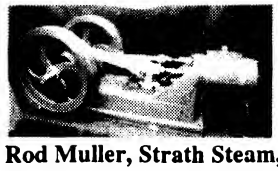
Guineas have some characteristics which make them attractive. Once past the young chick stage they are incredibly hardy, they will roost in the tops of trees so don't really need shedding and are capable of supplying a large proportion of their diet, thus requiring only a little supplementary feeding. As this can lead to minimal handling, the birds may quickly become wild and uncatchable, so it is recommended you place their feed in a shed so they get used to going in and out and can be locked up if required.

To recapitulate on the points made in this series, the different avian species have specialised roles for garden or orchard use. If a situation arises where it is difficult to separate the benefits of one from another, turn to the productive traits of the two species and see which best suits the needs of your household. Poultry should not be regarded as the sole solution to past problems but complement a range of other appropriate strategies including a harmonious relationship with nature. Finally, the effectiveness of each species in its particular field is dependent upon your ability to manage the situation, to utilise the birds when necessary, recognise when the pest is under control, and remove your workers from the area. This way they too don't become pests.

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POWER-LESS IN 1994?

By Sally Hammond, Brookvale, NSW.

I sometimes feel as if I have lived much longer than I really have. Although I was a 'baby-boomer', many of the conditions of my childhood in a tiny township in WA were similar to those experienced by people a couple of generations earlier. For example, we had no telephone, no hot water, indeed no plumbing at all (unless you count a tap that came into the kitchen at bucket height from the thousand gallon rainwater tank outside), no indoor toilet or bathroom, and of course, no electricity.

As a child of course none of these things worried me unduly. Never having known anything different, it seemed quite normal to me to bathe once a week, heat water on the stove and take a long walk to the outside toilet, fifty metres or so 'up the back'. Even the torn squares of newspaper hung on a wire hook and meant to be used as toilet paper were seen more as interesting chances to practise reading out loud, than as a disadvantage.

My mother had lived in the city before I was born and must have often longed for the ease of a tap or a switch. For her, life in that township must have often been a burden and a downright nuisance. As I now look at my own home crammed with electrical appliances I wonder how I would manage if I had to leave them. I don't wonder for long, as a blackout soon shows me how dependent I am on them!

Just how did she manage? Well, to start with there was the faithful Metters fuel stove that was periodically brightened up with a coat of silver paint. This stove, although not slow-combustion, burned most days of the year and provided warmth on our bare backs as we bathed once a week in the tin tub strategically placed in front of it, heated the water for that same tub and kept a kettle boiling for numerous cups of tea. It also made the best toast ever in a wire toaster that folded over thick slices of home-made bread and was placed over one of the open rings on top of the stove. Of course you had to watch it and turn it over to brown the other side, but it beat a pop-up toaster any day. Of course there is an art to cooking with a fuel stove and you often must plan for hours ahead to have the heat just right for a sponge or fruitcake, bread or cream puffs, but Mum seemed to have the hang of it pretty well, and some wonderful meals came out of it.

The stove also heated the flat irons, today mainly seen brightly painted as folk-art door stops, but in those days the only way to press clothing. The irons were left for about thirty minutes on the top of the stove, flat side down and then quickly used to iron clothes. Mum kept two going – using one and heating the other, so there was no waiting, and when they were dirty, a rub with coarse salt or a swipe over brown paper or newspaper soon cleaned them. Steam irons were even further off and the washing was always 'damped down' the day before by sprinkling with water from a small bottle that had a perforated lid. Each garment was then rolled tightly and put in the basket ready for the next day's ironing.

Washing day without electricity was a whole 'nuther experience. Of course Mum washed on Mondays – everybody did, rain or shine. Many women in the township had to, for they were the 'lucky' ones connected to the town electricity generator that ran every evening from 6-10 pm to provide lighting, and for two hours two mornings a week – Tuesday and Thursday – for ironing. For washing, we had a large copper on a pot stand 'out the back' and early each Monday Mum lit a roaring fire in its little oven underneath. For this she would have had to use some of the fiercely hoarded kindling needed to start the stove each morning, so she was careful how she used it. When the wood came in sawn-up 45 centimetre long logs that you sometimes couldn't get your arms around, and the only way of reducing them to size was with a blunt axe, well... you wasted none of it. Sometimes, I collected twigs and sticks from the empty block next door and these took off well, producing a quick, hot fire.

The water in the copper eventually boiled up and Mum would flake bar soap into the cauldron, agitating the clothes with a large pot-stick, that I kept clear of when I was in trouble! She would use the stick too to lift the steaming, dripping whites, smelling soapy and clean now and dump them into the tub of rinsing water and then into another that glowed from a knob of blue-bag she had swished through the water. That same Reckitts blue-bag healed many a wasp and ant sting too I remember, and made the



Sally Hammond and companions in simpler days, before the advent of electronic gadgetry.

clothes sparkle on the old clothesline held up by a knobbly clothes-prop as they dried.

The dusters, my childhood's answer to tissues, which were really torn squares of bed sheets that had outgrown their usefulness, were not allowed to take up valuable line space. These were hooked through the holes on the wire netting fence around the garden where they dried like so many nurses' veils. While the whites bubbled, the coloureds were washed by hand in another tub and marvellously it all seemed to be finished in a morning, ready to blow dry by evening, unless the prop fell, which it did, often, sending the wet clothes into the dirt and my mother to tears.

With no electricity, the other major concern was keeping food cool. There was no question of course of having anything frozen, or even relatively cold. We had a Coolgardie Kool-Safe with a tray on top which was kept filled with water. This soaked down the bag (could it really have been asbestos?) sides, cooled by the air that passed around it as it stood in the breeziest part of the house. Some of the farmers' wives had fridges, but these were fuelled by kerosene and were not as good as you might hope. I

remember hearing of many fires being started by a kerosene fridge that had blown up unexpectedly and was rather glad of the benign presence of our safe.

Lack of a refrigerator did affect our diet. Butter was served at room temperature, we bought Kraft cheddar cheese and used powdered milk – always. I had ice cream when we went to town, about once a year or so. Our vegetables were what we could grow, those carried by the local store or, later, a weekly consignment of 'mixed vegetables and fruit' from a grower many miles away who sent us a lucky-dip selection on the train, packed in a hessian bag and, sometimes, surprisingly good. At least it was always exciting to see what he decided we needed that particular week.

We had our own hens, so eggs appeared regularly and if we had too many Mum gave them away or bartered them with neighbours. A few times, when everybody had too many, she would rub them with a greasy preparation called Ke-Peg and store them away for months. I always remember them as coming out of this treatment rather well. Lemons were similarly preserved by rubbing with Vaseline.

It is a shame that we did not become vegetarians earlier as meat gave my mother many a headache. She had to have it delivered from the main town miles away. It was sometimes almost green by the time it arrived and I remember her soaking mutton flap or some other cheap cut in vinegar and water to make it palatable again. She would then put it in our meat-safe, a perforated metal box about 45 centimetres square that hung from a wire on a hook near the Kool-Safe. This was primitive but it kept flies and ants away from the food and the air circulation helped to keep the meat fresh.

Our lighting was 'romantic'. At first we had a pressure lamp that had to be pumped up to get the desired brightness. Mum was petrified of it and I, taking my cue from her, kept well away, so I am hazy as to its principle. Later we invested in a lamp with a gas mantle. These delicate white cones fitted over the flame and glowed white and lit a room quite effectively. They were fragile though, and prone to disintegrate at the most inopportune times. Sometimes I used a candle to get myself to bed, but a torch under the covers often prolonged my night-time reading sessions!

Heating was provided by an open fire and the fuel stove, and, because our home was small, this was adequate. At night, no electric blankets or heated water beds for us – just plenty of blankets and a hot water bottle.

Mum's sewing machine that made most of my clothes was of course a Singer treadle machine. It sewed well and almost as quickly as its electric grandchildren today.

Of course there was no TV in the corner of the lounge room, but every bit as central was a large battery-powered wireless that ruled our home. Nothing was allowed to interrupt the twelve-thirty news, or the next episode of *Blue Hills* that followed it, and in the evening *The Children's Session* with the Argonaut's Club, *Life with Dexter* and Jack Davey and Bob Dyer kept us amused and in touch with the world. I often went to sleep with half an ear trying to follow the dramatised play being read on the radio in the next room. We had no stereo, but the radio brought us news, views and music from around the world.

Today it seems electricity is powering almost everything from toothbrushes to mosquito zappers, musical instruments to fax machines, computers and tin openers. I have gadgets that will slice, shred, mash and mix. I can programme my stove to cook while I am away and my microwave to defrost something my freezer has kept for months. It hardly seems the same world I started out in. While we may have seemed 'powerless' in our simple little home in the bush; while the romance of it all was lost, I am sure, many times on my mother as she struggled to cook and heat and clean; while often I longed for suburban modern life and ease – I guess we both learned to be self-reliant and stubborn. And that is a powerful lesson for anyone to learn!

POWER-LESS IN 1994

Even in this decade many people are still not connected to electricity for one reason or another. Here are some hints for coping today:

Throughout The House

For heating install wood fires or use gas or kerosene heaters. For lighting use lamps that have a mantle or wick-covered flame for safety.

Kitchen

Use a gas or wood stove for cooking. You may still be able to buy or make the old-style bag safes or Coolgardie safe to keep food fresh in. Grow vegetables, herbs and fruit as much as possible and pick them only as you need to use them, to avoid spoilage. Use Vacola jars to preserve some produce to use out of season.

Use less meat – you will be healthier and, as meat is difficult to keep without refrigeration, that is one problem less. Eggs can stay unrefrigerated for weeks or, if you want to keep them for longer, rub with Vaseline or Ke-Peg.

Bathroom

Use gas or install a solar hot water system or have hot water plumbed from your slow-combustion stove.

Laundry

Use the same water-heating system as in the bathroom. Clothes can be washed by hand using an old-fashioned washboard and laundry tubs. Hang them to dry naturally in the breeze or, if the weather is damp, bring them inside near the fire or hang in the sun on a verandah. Buy clothes that have some polyester in them and hang carefully then, when dry, fold them at the clothesline so that ironing is not necessary. Flat-irons can still sometimes by bought in second-hand and antique shops.

Bedroom

When there is no electric blanket or heated water bed, the only alternative is heaps of fluffy blankets or doonas, maybe a hot water bottle and body warmth!

Lounge room

Well, you are just going to have to do without TV. Radios use batteries – fast, so bring out the jigsaws, learn to sing around the piano and read aloud to each other. You will be amazed at the amount of letter-writing, hobbies and odd jobs you can do when there are no electronic distractions. And it will do wonders for family communication.

While it may seem a little difficult to imagine being without electricity these days, those who have done it, and coped, know that the inconveniences can be outweighed by other things such as living in beautiful surroundings, a simpler lifestyle and a return to personal and family values.

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PERSIMMONS

By Marian Boetje, Maryborough, Qld.

Persimmons are one of those fruits people either love or hate. It has something to do with the fact that, to be truly edible, a persimmon must feel and look something like a squashy tomato – horrible. But of course, there the similarity ends. A ripe persimmon is lusciously juicy and sweet. However, never be tempted to try a less-than-ripe persimmon. There are bitter tastes and there are astringent textures; an under-ripe persimmon has both! The astringency is caused by a high tannic acid content and it wrenches the saliva glands, sets the teeth on edge and leaves a gritty taste which lingers on. Even when a persimmon has attained its full orange glory, some astringency may persist. The fruit of most varieties must be actually soft before eating.

Because of their softness, persimmons do not travel well and require expensive protective packaging to go to market. Therefore, they usually cost an arm and a leg. When we were young, my mother used to buy herself the occasional persimmon. She would bring it home carefully and set it on the window ledge to ripen. We kids were definitely discouraged from developing a taste for them. This was Mum's treat. We could comment all we liked about the texture and revolting squashiness and Mum would just smile a secret smile and offer no comment. When it was fully ripe, and usually when we were at school, the persimmon quietly disappeared. Consequently, I was an adult before I actually tasted a persimmon.

Down the road from our farm is an open paddock with two persimmon trees marking where there was once an old homestead. The trees are a beautiful reflection of the seasons, bearing a canopy of glossy, light green leaves in spring and summer and, when the season is favourable, copious quantities of orange fruit. In autumn, their leaves turn yellow and orange and eventually drop, while in winter, there are just the skeletons of the trees, supporting the remnants of the current season's birds' nests. Unfortunately, humans only manage to salvage a few of the fruits each year, as the local parrot population literally gets first pick.

The persimmon most commonly found in Australia is the Japanese persimmon *(Diospyros kaki)*, which is about tomato-sized and orange. It, as its name suggests, is a native of Japan, China and Western Asia. An American variety is smaller and may be yellow or dark red when ripe. The persimmon belongs to the same family as ebony, so as well as being useful for fruit and ornamental in the garden, its wood is valuable, particularly for small wood-turning projects.

GROWING REQUIREMENTS

Climate

The persimmon can be grown over a wide range of climatic conditions. Because it is dormant in winter, it is able to withstand frosts. On the other hand, its low chilling requirement makes it equally suitable for growing in northern temperate areas of Australia. The main danger comes in northern inland areas, where early spring frosts may damage any new leaves which have been encouraged to develop by the warm, spring days. If the spring frosts are not too severe, the tree will survive, as flowers do not appear until late spring. In very hot areas, there may be a problem with fruit sunburn. Ideally, persimmons like plenty of spring moisture and a long temperate summer and autumn to produce the best fruit.

The fruit does not mature till late autumn and in southern states can usually be harvested after the leaves have dropped. In Queensland, the leaves will be retained longer and offer the nearly ripening fruit some protection from the local bird population.

Soil and Fertiliser

Persimmons prefer a well drained soil, as collar and root rots can be a problem, but they do need a good supply of water in



Two old persimmon trees near our farm, well shaped as a result of careful early pruning and now thriving in spite of apparent neglect.

spring and summer to ensure the set and development of high quality fruit.

Persimmons should be fertilised sparingly as over-fertilisation will result in lush leave growth and poor fruit development. Animal manure and compost are ideal but, failing that, two kilograms per annum of NPK fertiliser for a fully grown tree is ample.

In this regard, the persimmons growing near us with no care at all, have textbook conditions. They are on top of a stony and well drained ridge. They are practically the only shade for cattle which repay the favour by manuring the trees generously. When we have spring and summer rains the branches are bowed down with fruit; in poorer seasons, the trees bear much more lightly.

VARIETIES

Older varieties of persimmon had buds of both male and female flowers, but there are new varieties which have only female flowers, developing seedless fruit. Newer varieties are also being bred to develop less astringent fruit. Most seeded and nonseeded varieties will cross-pollinate, but is better to plant pollinators of known reliability to ensure a good fruit set.

Generally, most non-astringent cultivars produce few male flowers and pollinators are necessary at the rate of one to every eight or ten trees. The cultivar 'Gailey' is a good pollinator, producing copious quantities of male flowers, although its own fruit is small, dark-fleshed and very astringent. Bee colonies around persimmon trees do an excellent job of pollination.

Persimmons are attractively coloured and shaped, but the most important factor affecting their popularity is the astringency. Considerable effort has gone into developing varieties with attractive colouring and an acceptable taste, Briefly, orange-fleshed, seedless persimmons may be astringent or non-astringent at harvest, but generally have a chance of being astringent. Seeded varieties, where the presence of seeds modifies the astringency, may have darker (sometimes brown) flesh, which is certainly less attractive.

Given a choice, for home growing, opt for dark fleshed varieties. You will only ever bite an astringent persimmon once! In any case, if at all possible, go for named varieties, as then you will know what qualities to expect.

Non-Astringent Varieties

In areas with a long, warm growing season, the fruits from these cultivars can be picked and eaten like apples when at the firm mature stage. However, in cooler areas, some astringency may persist and fruit must be soft for eating.

Fuyu: orange flesh, good flavour, reliable bearer, late maturer.

Izu: prolific bearer, needs fruit thinning, early maturer so suits area with shorter summer.

Astringent Varieties

These all develop a good flavour, but need to be well ripened before eating.

Hachia: large fruit, heavy bearing, but tree remains small so it is easier to net for birds.

Dai Dai Maru: fruit will need thinning, late maturing, medium sized fruit.

PLANTING AND PRUNING

When you buy a persimmon, it will usually be a grafted tree. Cut back some of the leafy growth and plant the tree in a hole deep enough to avoid damage to the fragile tap root. Water the tree in well. Stake and mulch.

For backyard trees, prune to develop a vase shape as the tree grows, training the main crotch to a wide angle. This helps prevent the brittle wood from snapping under the load of fruit. Pruning should not be excessive but should aim at cutting back over-long laterals, and limiting branch height, particularly if you wish to net for birds.

Commercial growers are investigating trellising for persimmons to reduce the incidence of wind rub of fruit.

PESTS AND DISEASES

Pests

Fruit Fly: may be a pest, but often fail to hatch.

Birds: particularly in late-maturing fruit. Smaller trees can be netted.

Light Brown Apple Moth: eats new shoots and buds.

Mealy Bug: encourages sooty mould.

Commercial insecticides will eradicate insect pests, but a well managed tree in the home garden should not develop severe problems. The trees near us, left to their own devices, never seem to suffer insect attack.

Diseases

Collar Rot: damages the base of the trunk. Keep weeds and mulch away from the trunk of the tree.

Phytopthera root rot: ensure good drainage.

RIPENING FRUIT AND DEALING WITH ASTRINGENCY

Because the astringency of persimmons is such an inhibiting factor in developing a taste for them, methods for ridding the fruit of this astringency abound. The astringency is caused by tannins and can be converted by carbon dioxide gas or alcohol vapour. For this reason, Japanese often stored persimmons in a sake barrel.

If you just happen to be out of sake, you can enclose the almost ripe fruit in a paper bag with ripe bananas. The gases given off by the bananas will help the persimmons attain full flavour. Alternatively, you can leave the fruit in a warm atmosphere (hence, my mother's window sill) for a few days.

Under-ripe persimmons can often be identified by a bloom on the skin. Ripening can be encouraged by soaking the fruit in water at 25-30 degrees Celcius for a few hours, or by freezing the fruit for 24 hours. I found that freezing was good for jam fruit, but not as suitable for dessert fruit. Do not attempt to make jam from under-ripe fruit, as the astringency will persist.

As dessert fruit, persimmons are a good source of vitamin C, carotene and dietary fibre. Cooked, they make distinctively flavoured jams and sauces.

RECIPES

Persimmon Sauce

2 kg ripe persimmons
300 ml white vinegar
1 tbsp cinnamon
1 tsp dried cloves
1 tsp salt
1 kg sugar

Boil first five ingredients until persimmons are soft and pulpy. Sieve. Add sugar and stir until it dissolves. Bring to boil and simmer five minutes. Store in refrigerator and serve with pork, chicken or curry dishes.

Persimmon and Apple Chutney

1 kg cooking apples
1 kg persimmons
4 large onions
600 ml vinegar
500 g sugar
1 tbsp mixed spice
1 tbsp salt
50 g preserved ginger

Peel, core and chop apples, deseed persimmon. Peel and chop onion. Cook in vinegar till tender. Add sugar, spice, salt and chopped preserved ginger. Stir till sugar has dissolved. Boil till it is the consistency of jam, stirring occasionally. Bottle in warm sterilised jars. Seal when cold.



SCATTERING SEEDS

By Michel Fanton, Byron Bay, NSW.

In reality only a tiny fraction of seeds in the garden and in the orchard are harvested. No one would deliberately throw money out of the window or light a fire with banknotes. Yet a lot of people let a source of income slip through their fingers. Whether they live on acreage or in town, they may be letting rot on the ground valuable seeds which could be marketed to earn an honest green dollar.

Apart from the income side of it, there are lots of advantages in harvesting and replanting seeds. Think about it – a well developed lettuce head can produce in the vicinity of 60,000 seeds in one season, enough to share with everyone in a small town and a novel way to make friends.

The more individual plants there are to select from at harvest time the greater the gene pool. From there, mass planting (as opposed to a few seeds from the commercial seed packet), can be undertaken and this leads the way to selection.

We 'went seeds' years ago. Seeds are an easy currency to move around. For fifteen years we lived on the edge of a rainforest and we found seeds and other planting material the most easy commodity to carry to market. We used to sell and swap all sort of cuttings, seeds and roots at The Channon Market. We always attracted crowds with unusual looking gourds, yams, turmeric, and other goodies. It worked well both ways. We did not have to carry potted plants and break our backs, and the market goers had access to a very cheap and plentiful source of rare plants: crowns of asparagus, araccacha (a delicious Peruvian parsnip), cuttings of several sorts of sweet potato, sprouting white chokoes, cassava stalks, galangal, bare-rooted coffee seedlings and more. All we had to do was to have wet newspaper and old shopping bags to make the cuttings last until they could be planted.

There are a few more tricks to moving seeds around. I carry seeds in my pockets and I see other people also becoming seed-conscious. Just like squirrels and birds, we are the seed scatterers. Seed scattering happens at school fetes where resourceful parents make clearly-labelled seed packets and recycle their harvest's excess seeds. Some people offer a collection of home-grown vegetable or flower seeds for birthdays or at Christmas. I have even seen calling cards with seeds enclosed. In *The Seed Savers' Handbook* there is the story of a Greek bride who received seeds of spinach amaranth as part of her wedding present. Many years later she sent the descendents of these to the Seed Savers' seedbank.

For those of us who are seed-rich, there is the new Permaculture Exchange. It's an extension of the usual Seed Savers' Spring Newsletter. For the last eight years we have published a list of unusual varieties of vegetables, that subscribers of Seed Savers offer for sale or swap. Now it is not just subscribers who can offer but anyone at all can sell or swap seeds, cuttings and tubers in our column. We welcome a range of plants that are useful in the establishment of a Permaculture system. For example:

- The pioneer legume trees and shrubs that are often a band-aid for bare ground and provide quick shade. The crotalarias, sesbanias, native acacias, albizzias, leucaena, the many green manure and other useful shrubs such as the Siberian pea tree, and tree lucerne.
- The medicinal plants that are still used in today's remedies such as valerian, golden seal, echinacea, ginsengs, sarsparilla, bitter orange, kola nut, etc.
- The spices which grow as an understorey, such as the many types of gingers, turmerics, the tree spices which grow interplanted in orchards such as the cinnamon and allspice, or vines such as vanilla and pepper.
- The fibre plants such as cotton, sisal, kapock, jute (*Corchorus spp.*), flax, raffia palms, and quilla palm for Panama hats, pandanus, and certain hibiscus.
- Insecticides such as derris vine, neem tree, pyrethrum daisy etc.
- Beverage plants such as the many sorts of Chinese tea, carob, coffee and kath, or Abyssinian tea.
- Varieties of fruit and vegetables that you have been saving yourself.
- Weed barriers for the garden such as comfrey, arrowroot, and lemon grass.

Get into it! Even if you have something that seems ordinary to you, it could be a rarity for someone else. Some GR people might be needing large quantities of planting material when establishing a natural pasture system, such as hessian bags full of comfrey roots, Jerusalem artichokes and chicory roots.

You would have heard of the infamous PVR (Plant Variety Rights) when it was enacted in 1987. It is now in the process of being renamed Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) and is being reworked with some disturbing amendments. Farm-saved seeds grown from patented seeds will be prohibited, but that concerns mostly cereal farmers. The unnecessary changes in the Bill seem to be able to be passed unhindered in the Senate. However farm-saved seeds of patented varieties would make the unaware farmer a potential criminal. For small farmers and gardeners who are using traditional seeds there is no need to worry about traditional seed saving. Fortunately, the greatest majority of seeds are not hybrid and not patented... yet. That means you can save and replant them without trouble.

Please send us a long SAE so we can provide some current prices of seeds and guidelines for offering to the Permaculture Exchange, care of The Seed Savers' Network, Box 975, Byron Bay 2481. The deadline for offering is July 31st. The deadline for offering is July 31st 1994.



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Traditional Country Wine Making

Flower and Herb Wines

Betty Culver, Hivesville, Qld.

This is the third and final section of my country wine making series. You will need to look back to GR 101 (p 16) and read the general instructions before proceeding.

Measure by volume rather then weight. Place the petals in a measuring jug and gently shake down. Do not press. Use only flower heads or petals.

FLOWER WINES

Elderflower Wine

625 ml mature flowers
2 lemons
1.5 kg white sugar
5 litres water
wine yeast

Do not use too many flowers as they have a strong perfume. Mix the varieties. Use same recipe as for dandelion wine.

Rose Petal Wine

2.5 litres rose petals
2 lemons
1.5 kg white sugar
5 litres water
wine yeast

Use full-blown rose petals, mix varieties. Use same recipe as for dandelion wine.

Dandelion Wine

2.5 litres dandelion heads
2 lemons and 2 oranges
1.5 kg white sugar
5 litres water
wine yeast

Pour boiling water over dandelion heads and citrus peel and rub vigorously against the side of the container with a spoon. When cool, add fruit juice and one sodium metabisulphate tablet.

Three days later strain the liquor onto sugar and stir in well. Add an active yeast and ferment under airlock. Rack into a sterilised jar and add one sodium metabisulphate tablet. Keep for six months before bottling. Saccharine tablet may be added for sweetness before bottling.

HERB WINES

Parsley Wine

500 g fresh parsley
2 lemons
5 litres water
wine yeast

Wash the parsley, then boil it with the finely pared lemon rinds for 20 minutes. Strain onto sugar and stir well. When cool add lemon juice and activated yeast. Ferment under airlock. Add one metabisulphate tablet. Store for six months before bottling.

Ginger Wine

100 g root ginger
250 g raisins
2 lemons and 2 oranges
2 g (pinch) cayenne pepper
1.5 kg brown sugar
5 litres water
wine yeast

Bruise the root ginger with a hammer, chop or liquify raisins. Thinly pare lemon and orange rinds. Place them all in a bin with cayenne pepper. Pour hot water over them and allow to cool. Add fruit juice and activated yeast. Ferment on the pulp for four days. Strain and stir in half the sugar. Pour the must into a jar, fit an airlock and ferment for one week.

Remove half the must, stir in the remaining sugar. Return the sweetened must to the jar and put excess in another bottle alongside. Ferment to a finish, then rack. Add one sodium metabisulphate tablet. Store for at least six months. Sweeten to taste before serving.

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Most of this season's Greenpeace range of environmentally thought-provoking T-shirts and jumpers is made from cotton grown without any chemical pesticides, herbicides or fertilisers. Until now Greenpeace has had to get its organic cotton from overseas because it wasn't commercially available in Australia, but this year, the Coulton family of Goodiwindi grew Australia's first commercial crop of organic cotton. More than 400 hectares of the family's 4000 hectare cotton farm are devoted to chemical-free cotton and already half of this year's crop (certified organic by the Biological Farmers of Australia, BFA) has been sold to Germany. Conventional cotton is one of the most polluting crops in the world. It's only grown on three percent of the world's farmland yet uses 25 percent of the world's insecticides. By making the move to clean cotton, we can start by reducing insecticide use. The world market is crying out for truly clean cotton. If more Australian cotton growers went organic, we could be exporting it to the world.

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MORE ABOUT BELLINGEN

By Jenny Ledgar, Repton NSW.



In the last issue Iwrote about the Bellinger Valley and a little about its main town of Bellingen. This time, more about Bellingen which I hope will be of assistance to prospective visitors and residents.

Bellingen (population 2300) is a small rural town that seems to be surviving the recession and unemployment problems, largely due to the initiative of the people who live here. The town has attracted a variety of alternative health practitioners and therapists who have set up practices in town. There is also a well established hospital and nursing home.

The business area, with its beautifully maintained historic buildings, provides the most particular shopper with everything from organically grown fruit and vegetables to fresh tofu and tempeh and a wide variety of breads baked in the valley. A delicatessen sells a broad range of imported grocery items with lots for the curry fanciers and the restaurants and cafes cater well for vegetarians.

The Chrysalis School for Rudolph Steiner Education is at Thora, about a half hour drive from Bellingen. Here the imaginative, artisan-built buildings are set on a hillside and provide the students with a most inspiring view of the mountains (see photo last issue). The school has approximately 160 pupils ranging from kindergarten to year 10 at present, with a commitment to eventually continue to class 13. The school presents the students with artistic and life-relevant lessons and aims to develop free human beings who are able, of themselves, to impart purpose and direction in their lives. Many parents have found this approach to education a refreshing and liberating alternative to the more tightly structured academic regime offered by the state run schools.

For young ones in Bellingen there is also Dawnsong Preschool offering a Rudolf Steiner start to education. For the tertiary student a trip of 35 kilometres will take them to Coffs Harbour where there are opportunities for study at a new university and a TAFE college.

When the old funeral parlour in Bellingen came up for sale, members of the Bellingen Environmental Centre, which was then sharing premises with a book shop, decided to buy the building and redevelop the site for itself. It was an ambitious project with an estimated $80,000 to be raised. But the town has a history of getting such projects off the ground and a small group set to work. An unlisted public company called Sustainable Earth Projects was established and called for financial investors. The company would own the building which would be leased to the Bellingen Environment Centre. Today, several years later, a beautiful mud brick building, built largely by volunteers and funded by investors both large and small, stands proudly symbolising constructive community action. The two-storey building also houses a youth centre with a full-time youth worker, a desk-top publishing business and an optometrist's office.

The current environmental issues in Bellingen Shire include water quality in the river. The Bellinger River, running through the town, is under increasing pressure as the population grows. The town water supply is taken from the river and the sewerage treatment works also discharge into the river. Members of the Environment Centre express concern that in times of drought, when the flow is reduced, the king tides could carry contaminated water upstream as far as the pumping station. New housing and piggeries in the catchment area are also of concern. The Bellingen Environmental Centre has recently received a $5000 grant from the Environment Protection Authority to carry out a stream watch project. Students from the local high school will be included in testing samples of river water and monitoring for any signs of increased pollution.

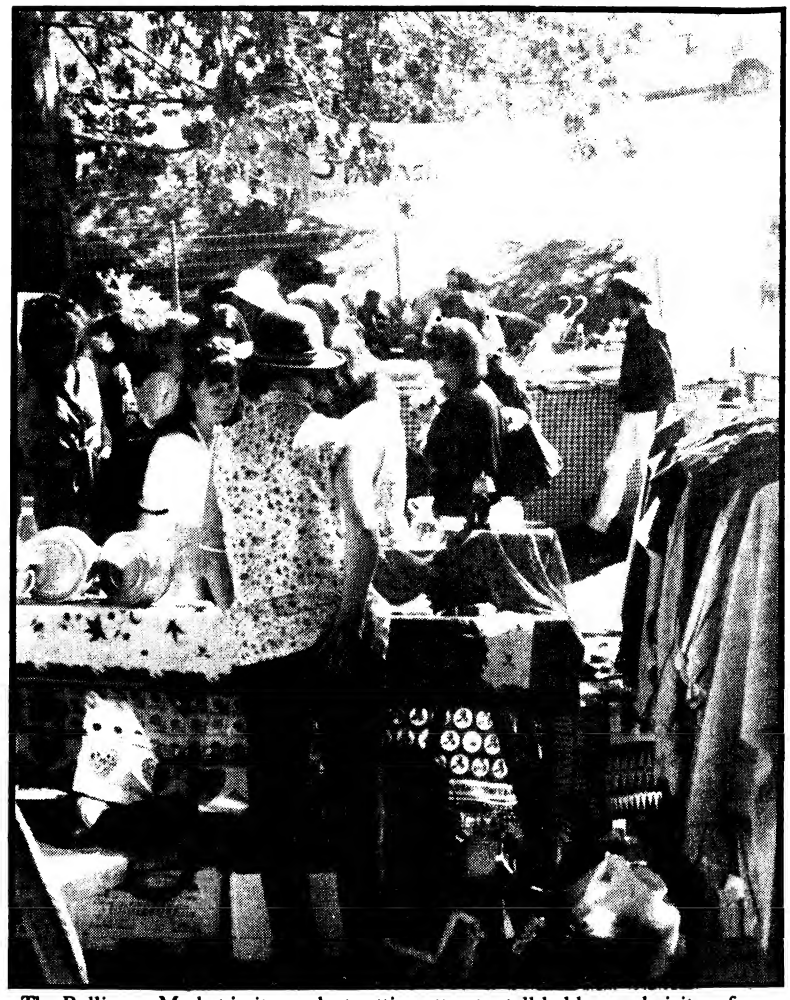
Old-growth logging, particularly in the

Mistake Forest, which is in the Nambucca Valley, south of Bellingen, is another current issue. Environmentalists argue that there is very little old-growth forest left, that it is home to many endangered species and is vital to the continued supply of fresh water in the catchment area. There are many aboriginal sites in the forest, including a ceremonial bora ring, and environmentalists have set up a camp in the forest to study and protect the area under threat.

The Bellingen Shire Council and the local community currently enjoy a good relationship. Joint projects such as the Waste Management and Recycling Centre have helped to provide a positive focus for the town's environmental responsibility. The Council provided a site and building for the Recycling Centre in the industrial estate at Raleigh, they also provided some capital and expertise. The Bellingen Environment Centre raised further money from private investors and purchased a plastics granulator and a cardboard baler. A local timber mill converted an industrial conveyor belt for use at the centre and then donated this valuable piece of machinery. The centre is run as a business and three people are employed to sort out the clean recyclable material. The Bellingen Shire Council has imposed a small levy on ratepayers for the provision and kerbside collection of recycling containers. There has been a high level of community support for the new service with people reporting satisfaction at having a positive part to play in recycling. The centre produces high quality baled paper and cardboard, glass and plastic for recycling. The plastic recycling is proving the most labour intensive and, as transport costs are high and the price of plastic falling, Bellingen would now welcome a small industry that would use recycled plastic.

Two small businesses have recently been established to work in conjunction with the Waste Management and Recycling Centre. One group extracts garden waste and material that can be composted and produces compost bricks for sale to the public. The other business extracts and recycles second-hand building materials. Bellingen Shire is understandably proud of its waste management system which should be an example to other rural shires.

Of course Bellingen also has its share of social problems, youth unemployment being the one most talked about. Domestic violence, alcohol and drug related problems are also present in proportion to the size of the town. At Coffs Harbour there is a women's health centre and a women's refuge and the Bellingen Neighbourhood Centre provides counselling and support for people in crisis.



The Bellingen Market in its verdant setting attracts stall holders and visitors from a wide area.

Real estate prices are generally cheaper than the city but more expensive than I have seen in other country towns. For instance there are plenty of good brick or timber houses for sale for between $90,000 and $150,000. If you are looking for acreage with good water or river frontage the price will jump to over $300,000. There are not many small cheap acreage blocks and there is a scarcity of rental property. A small group of local people have recently formed a housing co-operative to apply for government assistance to purchase low cost housing for its members.

Visitors to the valley can stay at the caravan park in town, the hotel, motel bed and breakfast place, or soon, at the nearly completed backpackers' hostel.

Bellingen last year enjoyed its fourth annual jazz festival. Thousands of visitors flocked to the town to enjoy jazz at the market, on the riverbank and in the streets, to soak up the sunshine and music by day and to rage at night. The general feeling in the Bellinger Valley is one of optimism for the future and the success of previous community projects inspires people to continue working together for the good of the community.

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We know that the subject of cat ownership is a controversial one so we are printing these articles in an attempt to encourage both a responsible decision about whether or not to own a cat, and responsible ownership for people who do have cats. Many people, from all locations and walks of life, own cats, for a variety of reasons. Most of these people love their cats and are not going to dispose of their pets/companions/vermin controllers no matter what arguments are used; at the very least they will want to keep and care for their animal(s) for the remainder of its life. Anti-cat lobbyists who take a self-righteous attitude dogmatically demanding the destruction of cats, risk setting cat lovers' backs up and making them even more determined, or, even worse, causing people to deny that they even own a cat, an attitude certainly not conducive to proper care of the animal. We have never been dictatorial in our approach to controversial issues and think it far better in this case to educate people in responsible cat ownership. As we don't want this issue to swamp the Feedback pages for the next 12 months, we will print only the first two letters from both sides of the fence.

CAT OWNERSHIP YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

By Kathy Jacobs, Ringwood, Vic.

Much has been said, and written, of late concerning the cat as an 'environmental terrorist', or, 'the worst, cold-blooded killers about'. But hold it just a second! I've got a few things to say in the cat's defence. Now don't get me wrong, I try to follow a lifestyle that has as little negative effect on our planet as possible, I am vegetarian, and I re-use and recycle wherever I can, but I love my cats. A contradiction? No, I don't think so!

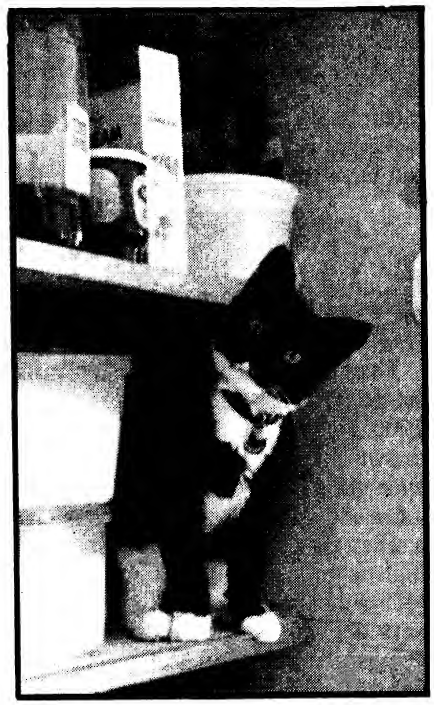
First of all, I don't believe that cats are 'the biggest killers'. What about man? Not only do many humans kill to eat but some also kill for sport. Even worse, sometimes man kills fellow humans for religious, political or geographical reasons. Sure, some cats kill wildlife for food or sport, but is that so different from humans? (There is no outcry about the millions of cows, sheep, pigs, chickens or fish the humans kill either.) Neither do I consider cats to be 'environmental terrorists'. They are far more in harmony with this planet than humans. Cats don't start wars, cause oil spills, pursue greenhouse-gas-producing industry. They don't cut down the rainforests nor take part in the arms race. Compared with what man does to this planet the cat's destructive contribution is negligible.

Much anti-cat feeling is focused towards their effects on our native wildlife. Yes, some cats do kill native birds and animals (although with responsible management this can be mostly prevented), but compared with what humans do to the native wildlife the cat's role is insignificant. How so? Not only do we hit and kill native animals with our cars, our industries pollute their habitats which are already vastly reduced by extensive clearing of the natural environment for homes and cities and to graze our imported animals and grow our imported plants. With 300 species of animals becoming extinct each year we can hardly lay all the blame on the cat.

Before someone says, 'Hey! What about the feral cats?' Yes, I know they are a problem (as are all the other feral animals such as dogs, goats, pigs), but these didn't get to be a problem by themselves, they are only a problem because of human thoughtlessness and stupidity and should therefore be dealt with humanely rather than with hatred. Blame the humans, not the cats. There is, whether cat haters are prepared to believe it or not, a vast difference between feral and domestic cats.

So, how can cats be managed to reduce their environmental impact? First of all, if you live in the suburbs, I feel that you can let your cats out, but there are limitations: cats should never be allowed out before dawn or after dusk. Having them inside during these times dramatically reduces their chances of finding native animals and birds to eat and keeps them safe from cat fights, dogs, cars and unfriendly humans. Cats should never be let out hungry. Feed your cat before it goes outside, if it's not hungry it is less likely to hunt. I'm not saying it won't, like some humans, cats sometimes hunt for fun. Cats which are let out should be desexed as they are less likely to wander and there is no danger of unwanted litters to add to the feral population. Put a bell on your cat's collar, it does help.

Keep your cat healthy by having it vaccinated and wormed regularly. Don't try to attract birds to your garden. And finally, train your cat! It is possible. Use food as a reward and train your cat to come when it is told. We ring a bell and ours come running, but anything – whistle, bashing the top of the food tin with a spoon – will do. If you follow these



guidelines you can vastly reduce the numbers of animals and birds that your cats kill. Our cats bring home everything they kill and in three years they have presented us with three birds (only one native), five skinks, a dozen cicadas and several thousand assorted potato peelings and pieces of wandering Jew. We take the added precaution of only letting our cats out if we are at home.

However, if you live in a more rural area, particularly in or near the bush, different 'rules' apply. These areas are more sensitive and should be treated with care. Cats should not be let out in these areas. Not only are they at greater risk (from dogs, foxes and feral cats), but there are many more temptations. In these situations cats can be kept entirely indoors or better still have an outside pen or run constructed. Cat pens should ide-

ally be accessible from the house (perhaps via a window or flap) and should be sufficiently stimulating to prevent feline boredom. Provide small trees or shrubs, catnip plants, places to hide or sleep in the sun.

I suppose some might say that they can't be bothered building or that it would cost too much, while others might dislike the thought of cats living inside so much – considering them unhygienic. If these are concerns, maybe cat ownership is not for you. On the first score, cat pens don't have to be lavish, they can be constructed easily and inexpensively from basic second-hand materials with minimal skills required (ours cost us no more than the price of one bag of cement and our time). As to the hygiene aspect, if cats are vaccinated, wormed and properly fed, there is minimal risk of humans catching anything from them. We have two cats (until recently, three) who live and have their litter trays indoors. Recently, for interest's sake, I had myself tested for toxoplasmosis (a protozoan infection which can be caught from cats and which can be dangerous to the unborn child if caught while a woman is pregnant). The doctor was a bit surprised when my test came back negative as I had mentioned that our cats sleep in the bed with us. Fleas are not a problem either; there are numerous control methods, regular flea combing and the occasional bath with wool mix being my preferred methods.

Why then would anyone go to all this trouble? What good are cats? That is a topic I could write for pages on, but out of consideration for the trees I will be brief. Cats are wonderful companions and are extremely affectionate. There is nothing better than coming home after a hard day at work than to have a furry little bundle worm its way onto your lap and purr contentedly as if to say, 'Well, I love you, so everything's all right'. If you're lonely, or even if you're not, you can talk to your cat, they do respond, albeit with sounds and postures beyond the comprehension of mere humans. They are very intelligent (mostly) and listen to everything you say and make it clear what they think. Cats are also great entertainment. I can spend ages watching our cats prowling majestically, chasing Martians or something that isn't there (or maybe that's something else beyond human comprehension), or having extended play fights or grooming sessions.

Cats are really easy to care for, simple to toilet train, are highly adaptable to a variety of lifestyles and don't need a daily walk. Maybe all the do's and don'ts sound ominous but really much of it is common sense and easily becomes no-fuss routine.

Next time I will give you more detailed information about toxoplasmosis, a disease which worries many people because of its ability to infect unborn babies.



CATS ARE NOT VERMIN



By Ann Walker, Eaglehawk, Vic.

Since Howell The Good, king of Wales, set the price of a good working cat some 1000 years ago country people have known the worth of cats. Many might even think that his assessment of the value of a good mouser as equal to that of a milch ewe, her fleece and lamb, is not high enough. Ever since the first cat joined the first people in their cave and agreed to keep it free of vermin in return for warmth, food and shelter this working partnership has continued.

The Romans, who were the first people to introduce the domestic cat to the British Isles, prized them for the role they played in keeping the grain stores on their wooden ships free of mice and rats, which otherwise, would not only have seriously depleted their precious stores, but could also have done serious damage to the ships themselves. It was probably in some measure due to the presence of cats on board that they were able to carry out such extensive (for those days) journeys of exploration and conquest. Following this tradition the cat has been taken wherever people have settled, Australia included.

Because the settlers also brought rats and mice with them in the holds of their ships, cats were a very necessary means of control. Out on the rural settlements as well as in the new towns they were invaluable, for not only did they keep down rats and mice but they also helped to control snakes. Anyone brought up in the bush or who has reason to keep sacks of grain to feed livestock knows that you just don't plunge your hands into these sacks, particularly in the summer; not merely because of the mouse, or even rat, that may be in it, but because of the snake which may have followed it in!

Cats have also played a secondary, but some would say no less important role: that of companion, particularly to the house-bound woman. Of recent years, as scientific 'progress' has developed more and yet more deadly poisons to cope with the vermin once dealt with by felines, the cat's role as companion has become more important, its role as hunter less so. To countless people the little cat that shares their home is much more than just a cat, it is something to love, and to return their love, a defence against loneliness.

The cat's history down the ages has been a chequered one. In Ancient Egypt she possibly reached her peak for here she was not only a beloved and respected member of the household, but for a century or two was actually elevated to the status of goddess. Festivals were held in her honour and when the family cat died she was given a splendid funeral and the family went into mourning.

In the Middle Ages in Europe the scales tipped the other way. With the persecution of witches the cat too was hunted down, often meeting the same watery or fiery death as her unfortunate owner. A far cry from Ancient Egypt where the death penalty was the punishment for killing a cat!

Now it seems a new witch hunt is on, here in present-day Australia, and this time the target is the cat herself. Quite suddenly after two hundred years of living in this country, she has become the one responsible for the loss of native wildlife. The hunter has become the hunted, the scapegoat for people who cannot or will not accept that they and they alone are responsible for what has happened to the wildlife in this country. Yes, even for introducing the domestic cat! It is the clearing of vast tracts for grazing animals and for cities, more than anything else, that has decimated the native wildlife population. To blame domestic cats living in city or suburbia is patently absurd.

However, not only we in Australia, but people on the other side of the world, in England, are being bombarded with television features telling us that our domestic cats are killing astronomical numbers of native animals each year (the number goes up with each programme),

and that as a result cats must be strictly controlled if not, as some people seem to suggest, wiped out altogether. The latest figure I heard was that each cat in Australia was responsible for the deaths of 33 native animals per year! How patently absurd, for there are so many cats who never catch anything that the very few who live in or near the bush must be each responsible for millions a year! If every cat was doing this then we should see whole armies of cats marching out from city and suburbia daily to get their quota! The vast majority of well fed and well cared for cats stay home eating their Kit-E-Kat and snoozing by the fire.

The cats that do the damage are relatively few. They are the un-neutered cats, usually female, and often in kitten, who are dumped in or near the bush by totally irresponsible owners. These cats must hunt to live and feed their kittens.

There are thousands of well loved and well cared for cats in Australia; some are genuine working cats on rural properties doing their age-old task of keeping feed stores free of damaging vermin, the great majority are much loved companions.

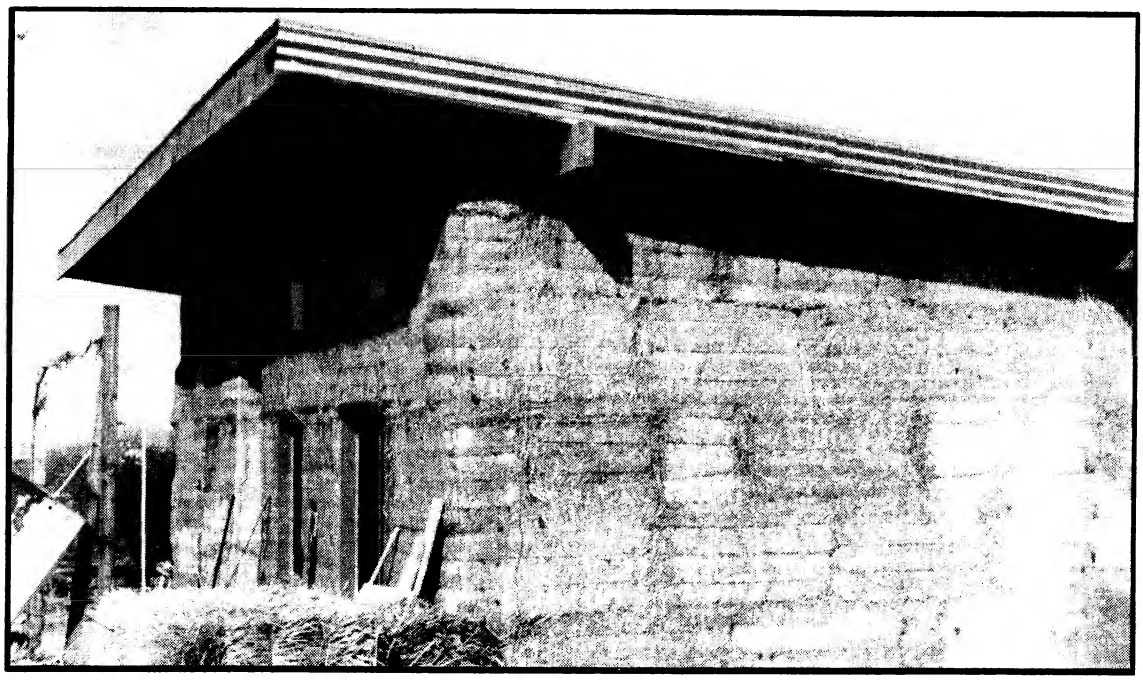
To lay the blame so squarely on the small back of the cat seems to me grossly unfair, a hunter and a carnivore she may be (efficient too) but nowhere near as deadly to the environment as those other hunters and carnivores, people themselves. The cat, after all, does not lay whole tracts of land bare of any vegetation except grass to feed animals which she will eat, as people do. In fact to blame the cat seems to smack of the same hypocrisy that inspired the unknown poet who penned the lines:

The cat has caught a bird,
The wicked cat must die.
And she resumed her quail on toast
And he his pigeon pie.

Certainly all cat owners should be encouraged to care for their pets in a responsible manner. To keep them in at night, to feed them well and above all to see that all cats, other than the special few kept for breeding, are desexed. Heavy fines should apply to anyone caught abandoning or dumping cats. But let's put the responsibility for the decimation of our native wildlife where it belongs, with ourselves. Remember that because we brought the cat to Australia we are responsible for its wellbeing just as much as we are for that of the native animals. We certainly should not class it as the vermin it was brought here to control.

BUILDING WITH STRAW

By Mary Horsfall, Longwood East, Vic.



In America there is a growing movement towards building houses of straw and, judging by the number of enquiries to GR about the method, it won't be long before it is a popular construction alternative in Australia also.

Straw dwellings are inexpensive. (A 475 square foot straw home near Tuscon Arizona cost $18 per square foot, compared to an average $53 for conventional homes.), easy to build, have superior insulation, can withstand a tornado and last up to 200 years.

Apparently, the idea came from Nebraskan settlers, who, being short of timber, utilised the material they had in abundance. Many of their homes are still standing a century later. One elderly person remembers how her parents once continued playing cards, blissfully unaware that a tornado was raging outside.

CONSTRUCTION METHOD

A post and beam framework, which meets the local building code is first erected. Then the wall cavities are filled with tightly bound bales of straw, pinned together with steel rods, which are then covered with stucco netting, a type of chicken wire, and stucco on the outside and plaster on the inside.

POINTS TO PONDER

We have yet to hear from anyone who has actually built a straw house for human habitation in Australia and would love to learn more details from anyone who has done so. Some points one can't help but ponder are: Will local councils give building approval? Will grazing stock be tempted to nibble through the stucco and make a meal of your house? Will mice take up residence in the straw?

Information based on an article from a US magazine sent in by Alice Charles, PO Box 83, Belgrave 3160. Mrs Charles is keen to hear from anyone using the method in Australia.

We have designed these projects especially for the home workshop enthusiast. They are easy to build using ordinary tools found in the average home workshop. (Welding and lathe work are not needed on any of these projects.)

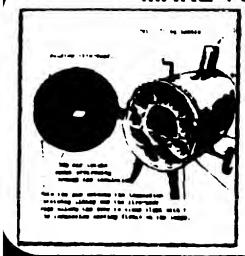
AUSTRALIAN DESIGNS — Our projects are designed in Australia for Australian conditions using easy to get bits and pieces from your local area.

RECYCLED PARTS — We place a heavy emphasis on using recycled parts. It can cut the cost to nearly zero on some projects. We show what parts to use, and where to get them.

WE BUILD AND TEST THEM — We build and test these projects before we print the books. By doing so we know you will be a satisfied customer, as your recommendations became an important source of business to us.

FREE TECHNICAL ADVICE — The projects are detailed and easy to make, but if a difficulty arises either in making or using them, we are only a letter or phone call away for free technical advice.

MAKE YOUR OWN CHACOAL

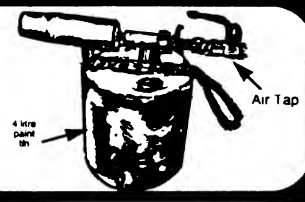


This unit produces 10 litres of high grade charcoal per hour from waste wood. The wood is baked in "coaling tubes" which expels gas and tar etc from the wood leaving pure charcoal. The process is started with a handful of sticks, then the unit is **totally self fueling using the expelled gas and tar.** (This principle was used during the 17th and 18th century in the production of charcoal for the glass furnaces and iron foundries). This process produces a very pure high grade charcoal with the maximum possible carbon content. It is ideal for barbecues, water filters, melting aluminium, forge work, (particularly impact welding where a clean hot fire is required), and many other uses around the home and workshop. **CC56-$8.00**

DIESEL BLOW TORCH

This is a powerful, fast heating torch. Compressed air vaporises the diesel giving an intense fierce heat. The flame is fully adjustable from a gentle heat for soldering up to a searing blasting flame a metre long.

DT54-$8.00



BUILD A MELTING FURNACE

The melting furnace is possibly the most spectacular project of all. It is easy to build using refractory cement. (Used the same as ordinary cement.) Exact grades are specified together with the suppliers address and phone numbers, for delivery anywhere in Australia. This furnace melts all normal casting metals, eg aluminium, brass, cast iron stainless steel etc, and reaches a brilliant, dazzling shimmering white heat in the melting pot. Despite these high temperatures i.e. 1,550°C in the melting pot, the furnace is cool on the outside and quiet, smokeless and safe for backyard use. The main outer casing is a 12 gallon drum, and the air blast is supplied by an old vacuum cleaner. Included is an easy method of casting aluminium using plaster of paris moulds. **MF55-$9.00**

HOW TO PATENT YOUR INVENTION

You do not need to actually build your invention This manual shows you how to draft out and lodge a "Provisional specification" for $60.00 This gives you 12 months of patent protection in which time you can sell your idea to a manufacturer or promotional agency for outright cash or royalties. The only work you need do is fill in the forms - about 1 hours work, on average and pay the patents office a $60.00 lodgement fee. We explain all about patents, how to fill out the forms, and show completed examples to make it easy for you.

P40—$7.00

Portable Stove

This is an unusual design, very easy to build and capable of all types of cooking, roasting and barbecuing. Lightweight and works in pouring rain. Uses all types of fuel, eg. wood, newspaper, coal, etc.

PS51 $6.00

Blacksmith Forge

This is a brilliant design, being easy to make, low in cost and exceptionally efficient. It will heat heavy pieces of steel to a soft plastic state in a few minutes. Plans included for making old style bellows, and procedures to harden, temper and anneal stee.

F52—$9.00

Case Harden Steel

Make tools, chisels, etc, from ordinary steel, then case-harden to a hard tool steel finish.
Harden shafts, tractor pans etc. Methods formulas and techniques tor use in the home workshop The mixture is absorbed up to 1/8" into steel by a heating technique. No special skills needed. Chemicals are cheap and easily obtained. **CH53—$7.00**

Water Divining

Details the proper methods of making and using divining rods to find underground streams and reservoirs. You will be able to accurately assess the depth, rate of flow, amount and purity of the underground water.

D38—$6.00

MANUAL OF 210 FORMULAS
FOR HOME, WORKSHOP AND FARM

With the information contained in this manual you will be able to make your own products to use in the home, workshop or on the farm. All chemicals are readily available, with the names and addresses of Australian suppliers included. You will learn how to make paint of all types, i.e. rustproofing paint, fireproof paint, luminous paint, marine paint, latex paint, putty, household cleaners, ant repellents, fly killers, soap, cockroach spray disinfectants etc. Formulas are also included for making imitation marble plastic, imitation gold, gunpowder, rocket fuel, etc. All formulas are relatively simple, do not require any special equipment and can all be made at home.

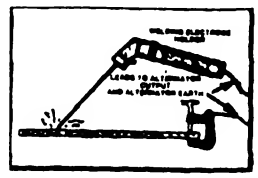
F16 – $6.00

How To Build A Portable High Voltage Power Plant And Welding Unit Using A Second-hand Car Or Truck Alternator

Research and Design by Jim Allowyn

This special research manual shows how to convert old car alternators into a high voltage power plant and welding unit. This unit will run 24v lights, power tools, heating tools, universal brush type electric motors (will not operate induction motors).

You will be able to fast charge batteries, arc weld, fusion weld with carbon arc rods, solder, braze, cut steel and heat steel to near melting point for shaping and bending.
Old 35 amp Bosch and Lucas alternators work very well The modifications are easily done by anyone with ordinary tools. All the required parts are available from auto electricians or auto accessory shops and the total cost of parts is "$12.00 to $15.00".
As a guideline to performance one 35 amp alternator will run 240v lights, drills, spot weld, heat
steel with twin carbon arc rods and do light welding. Two 35 amp alternators wired in parallel give an output of 70 amps which is adequate for most applications.
NOTE: You do not need a welder – this unique design enables welding leads to be connected directly to the output terminal of the alternator. The amps/voltage ratio is easily varied and controlled, enabling a low voltage, high amperage weld



ing current output from a direct connection on to the alternator.
In addition to using your existing car alternator and pulley you will learn about various drive line options including a high speed ground level wind chute power turbine which you can build yourself and a water wheel with enough power and torque to twist and break a 25mm solid steel drive shalt. Included is a simple method to convert old car generators into 2-speed 12v electric motors and a special section on formulas and chemicals which you can use and make yourself to rejuvenate old batteries. **P37 – $9.00**

How to Make Alcohol Motor Fuel

This manual shows an easy method of making alcohol fuel (methanol) by fermenting plant and vegetable waste. Methanol can be added to petrol as a fuel extender, or used straight with a motor carburettor adjustment. Methanol is water soluble which means it can be mixed with water, and in fact will absorb water from petrol tanks Methanol, water and petrol will all mix and dissolve into smooth motor fuel which is efficient and economical. Production is slow and not suitable for commercial ventures. However, it is a fascinating and rewarding project. **P23–$6.00**

AIR COMPRESSOR PLANS

Build your own compressor using the piston assembly of an old lawn mower and used car parts

This detailed manual shows exactly how to set up the compressor pump, air tanks and regulator for high pressure, high quality, automotive spray painting, spray painting around the home, high-pressure engine cleaning, sand blasting, operating air tools, nailing guns, air hammers, etc and with these unique design plans it can be built by anyone using ordinary tools, an electric drill and a few hours to spare. **C33 - $7.00**

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CHILD'S SUIT FROM OLD SWEATER

By Rowin de Bruyn, Canada.

My mother gave me this idea when she gave my daughter a pants and coat set made out of a beautifully patterned felted sweater which she found in a thrift shop.

I find this a fast and easy way to make great cosy winter outfits for young children. If you use 100 percent wool, the suit repels moisture (especially if the fabric is felted) and is warm. For special suits to wear under dresses, or alone, you can use a sweater with some angora or cashmere in it. Children love the softness, especially those whose skin is particularly sensitive to wool. One of my daughters can feel itchy wearing wool even if she's wearing cotton underneath, so I have to use very soft wool for her.

What you'll need is a sweater that's in good shape. Make sure there are not thin spots on the elbows and that the fabric is not so old that it's at the stage when it keeps popping holes every time you look at it sideways.

Choose a sweater which has a neck about the right size, which is often the case with felted (shrunken) sweaters. If the neck is too big, make sure it's the kind of neck that is turned over double so you can run elastic though it. See Figure 1 for the plan for cutting up the sweater.

The measurement from cuff to where you cut the sleeve off should match the measurement of the child from ankle to six centimetres above the waist. As indicated by the dotted lines, you can cut into the armpit to make the leg longer. Just don't cut into the part you will use for the body of the child's sweater.

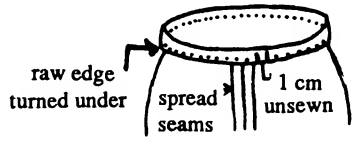
MAKING THE SUIT

Once you've cut out the suit, take the sleeves (soon to be legs), and cut the seam (starting at the armpit end) to where the crotch will be. Measure the child to make sure you've got the crotch in the right place. Make it so the seat will be roomy enough. If the child is still in nappies cut the crotch low enough to accommodate. Remember to leave six centimetres seam allowance at the waist. Check Figure 2 for the desired shape of the legs.

Now turn the legs inside out and pin together the two pieces, adding in the gusset, as illustrated in figure 2. After you've got it pinned, you can sew it up. If you're sewing on a machine, stretch the fabric a little as you sew. If you're sewing by hand, do the same and use heavy-duty quilting thread, doubled, and make your stitches very small. If the fabric is a bit felted (though not so seized up there's no stretch left), you don't have to worry about seam allowances unravelling. They won't usually unravel anyway, if the sweater is a fairly tight knit, but it just makes the suit a little more solid.

So now you're ready to turn down the waistband. Turn the raw edge under and spread the seams. Leave a good generous 2-3 centimetres to put strong waistband elastic through (13 mm is fine for this). Leave one centimetre unsewn where you'll put the elastic through.

Figure 3: Waistband
(inside out)



The last step is to put the elastic through. Measure the child's waist and cut the elastic a few inches longer. Put a safety pin on the end and string it through. You can sew the ends of the elastic together if you've got it measured just right, or you can tie a knot so it's adjustable.

SWEATER

If you refer to the pattern (figure 1), you will see that the main body of the sweater is cut down either side of the neck (leaving 6-8 cm from the neckband to the cut), and that the sleeves are cut from the lower sides of the sweater with the waistband part for cuffs. You'll need a sweater that's long enough in the body so your child's sweater won't turn out too short. Don't forget seam allowance.

Lay out body and sleeves wrong side up, unfolded, in the form they will be sewn in. Refer to Figure 6 for details of pattern layout.

Pin arms to body and sew them on, leaving three centimetres seam allowance at either edge of arm, as shown in figure 6. Then fold it in half, still inside out, and sew side seams. Reinforce armpits and cuffs.

Now you just need to hem the bottom. Turn the raw edge under. Here's a place where it's especially important to stretch as you sew, so when the child puts the sweater on, the thread won't break. If you need to put some elastic in the neck, you can do that now. Cut the threads that the neck band is sewn over on itself with (without cutting the knit), to open one centimetre or so and put elastic through. Use a thinner elastic. If the neck is not the double kind, you can sew a stretchy cotton band on the inside of the neckband to make a place to put elastic.

Figure 1: Cutting Pattern

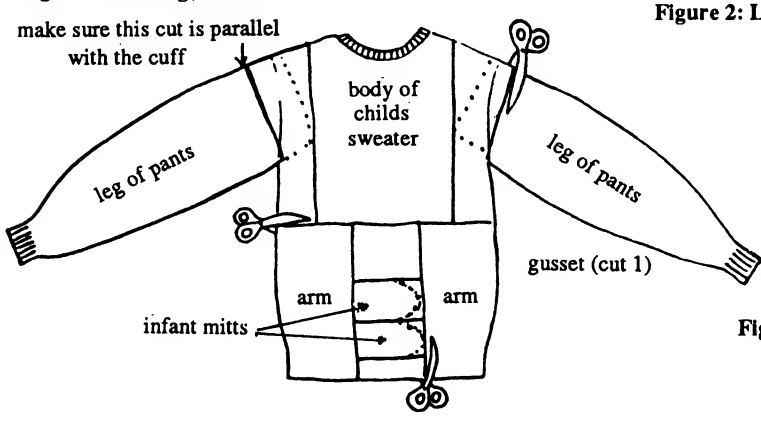


Figure 2: Legs

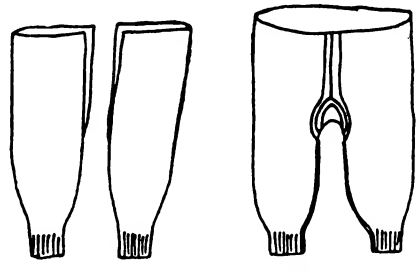


Figure 4: Finished Pants

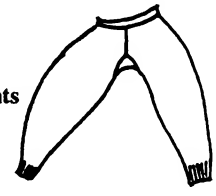


Figure 5: Sweater Parts

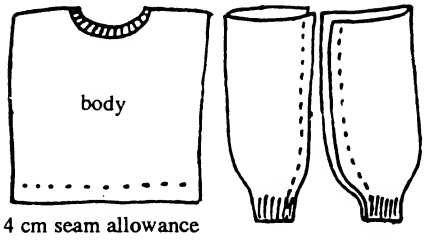


Figure 6: Pattern Layout

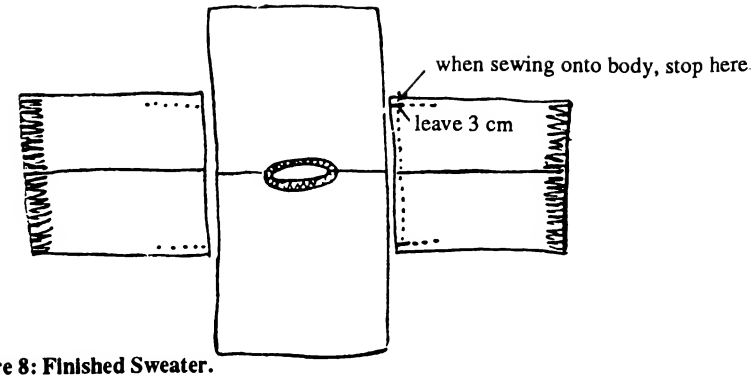


Figure 7: Sweater Sewn Up

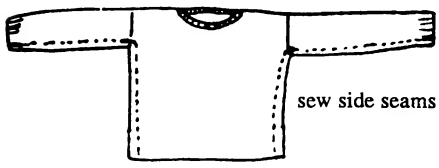
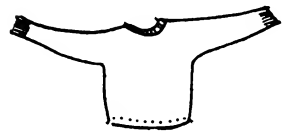
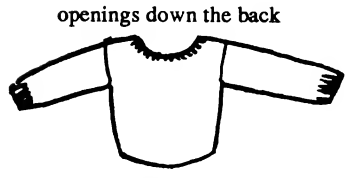


Figure 8: Finished Sweater.

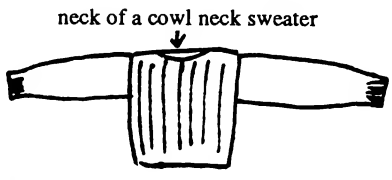


OTHER STYLES

Other styles of sweater suits you could try. All of these are one-piece suits. In all cases make the zip or button opening go down past the waist and stretch as you sew the waist.







MITTENS

If you've got enough leftovers, you can make infant mittens. This is especially nice if you're using cashmere or angora blend fabric.



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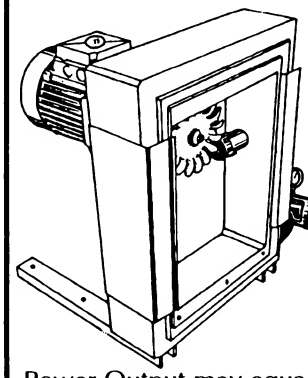
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HOUSEHOLD FOOD STORAGE

PART 1

By Nevin Sweeney, St Clare, NSW.

In Australia with its readily available food supplies most of us do not think about how much food is in our homes at any one time; why bother when all you need to do is buy more when you run out? What would happen though if you were prevented from restocking your larder by interruption to food supplies caused by transport or petrol strikes, floods or bushfires, or more personal emergencies such as illness or unemployment? A study done in the United States a few years ago put the average household food supply at a little under a week and there is no reason to assume we Aussies are any different. As an experiment, just before your next shopping expedition, note down how much food is left in the house and then realistically work out how long it would take your family to go through it. It can be very enlightening to see just how dependant we are on the local supermarket.

The obvious way to reduce this dependence is to maintain a store of food in our homes which can act as an emergency store if food supplies are interrupted for any reason. There are other advantages also: stored food acts as a hedge against inflation by enabling you to use for a longer period of time food bought before a price rise. It can save you money when you buy food for your stores in bulk and by providing a backup against running out of that critical item and having to bolt for the convenience store, paying a higher price and wasting time and petrol. Depending on what you store, it can also increase the variety of dishes that you can prepare at any given time, so it causes less problems when people drop in unexpectedly and stay for a meal. Even the government recommends keeping a minimum two week backup supply of food in case of natural disaster so a household store of food makes good sense.

What to store is a very personal decision because nobody can tell you what you like to eat. The one rule is: 'store what you eat and eat what you store'. A box of tinned beetroot that was cheap may look like a lot of food, but if the family refuses to live on beetroot for a week you are back where you started. You can't rely on the old truism, 'If I'm hungry enough I'll eat anything', it has been proven tragically wrong in the past. The following information may assist with your decisions.

CANNED FOODS

Canned foods have a number of advantages: they store easily; they are robust and vermin-proof; a wide variety of products are canned, some of which are not storable in any other packaging; they are readily available; they already contain water and so do not need reconstituting as do dried foods; most can be eaten cold or can be cooked up just by piercing the can and applying heat directly to the container. On the other hand they are heavy, relatively expensive and getting rid of the empties can be a pain.

Vegetables

These are usually canned in brine and can be a bit salty if you are not used to it, although some 'low salt' brands are starting to make an appearance. If you do not use canned vegetables on a regular basis but regularly use fresh or frozen potatoes, carrots, corn, peas and others buy a few cans of each and try them out on the family. Also worth storing are tomatoes, mushrooms, baked beans and, if you like a bit of Chinese cooking, minicorn, water chestnuts and bamboo shoots.

Fruit

There is usually no prejudice against tinned fruit and most members of the family can eat and enjoy it. Tinned pineapple is more versatile than most fruits as it can be eaten in hot or cold dishes and it has a longer shelflife than other fruits (two years as opposed to one year). Pineapple juice (available in three litre cans) also has a longer shelflife than other juices except tomato. Another point in its favour is that it is one hundred percent juice, not a so called 'fruit drink' diluted with water.

Meat and Fish

Canned protein is more expensive than fruit or vegies so make sure you buy only those types that your family is sure to eat. Also be sure to buy the better quality brands and only Australian produce (the same goes for all your stores). The cheaper Asian or European imports may not by up to the quality of the home-grown produce, not to mention the balance of payments! As in all other areas of food storage, try before you buy; invest in a couple of cans of each and see what will be eaten by the family and what won't. The popular items can then become part of your storage programme. Due to their greater expense it would be difficult to put away vast amounts of tinned protein but it is best made use of to add flavour to vegetable or grain dishes.

DRY FOODS

Rice

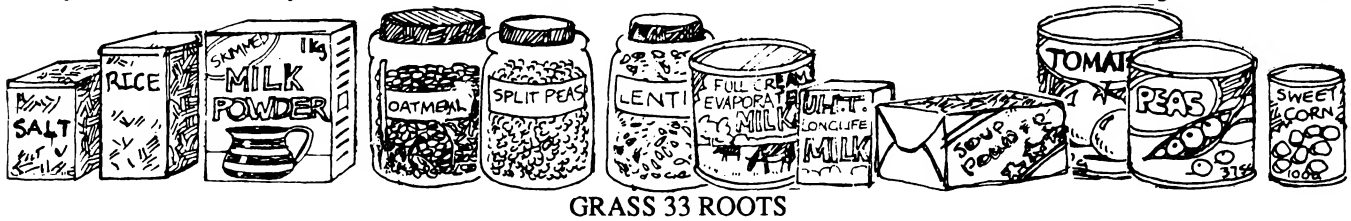
This is a good source of carbohydrates and very versatile, being equally at home in hot or cold, sweet or savoury dishes; it is also comparatively cheap and available in packages up to 25 kilograms if you want to bulk buy. According to the books, brown rice has a limited storage life due to oils in the husk becoming rancid over time; white rice by contrast lasts indefinitely in storage if kept dry and weevil-free. Brown rice is more complete than white rice but takes longer to cook (more energy) and is an acquired taste. Ultimately, you should store the one you currently use, but if you store brown rice it should be rotated (used and replaced) within a year.

White Flour

Again, flour should only be stored for about a year or it develops 'off', stale flavours but we have used flour two or more years old with no problems.

Soup Powder

This is available in a variety of brands and flavours from catering suppliers, in 2 to 2.5 kilo tins, quite cheaply, if you want to buy in bulk. It has a very long shelflife and is ideal for adding flavour to bland



meals or to eat just by itself.

Pasta

This has a very long storage life if kept dry and weevil-free (although in my experience weevils don't seem to like it much anyway). It makes a nice change from potatoes and rice as the staple carbohydrate and many of the generic brands are ridiculously cheap. Also worth a try are the 'two minute' style of noodles which are a good, cheap, quick and very versatile. They have a 'use by' date of only about one year, but they are still good for one or two years after this date; unlike spaghetti and macaroni they contain vegetable oil and develop a definitely rancid smell and taste after this time.

Dried Beans

Borlotti, navy, lima, cannelloni, red kidney or black eyed beans are high in protein, cheap, high in fibre, versatile and have a long storage life if kept dry and away from bugs. They can be sprouted or planted, if they are fresh enough, and will grow in the garden.

FATS AND OILS

A most important part of the food storage programme as far as the children are concerned. It is important to store enough fats and/or oils so their diet will not be lacking in essential fats if you need to live off your stores for any length of time. It also extends your options for cooking, there is a world of difference between boiled rice and fried rice.

Vegetable Oil

This is available in 20 litre tins for bulk purchases, but unless you use a great deal of oil it might be rancid before you got to the end of the drum. If the oil is poured off into smaller containers (say two litres) as soon as you get it, the problem of rancidity caused by exposure of the oil to the air would be prevented. Also available is vegetable oil in four litre rectangular tins; it is a bit more expensive but the tins protect the oil and are easily storable. Pure olive oil has the longest shelflife, but this presupposes that you like olive oil; it is also quite expensive.

Ghee

This is pure butterfat (butter with all the water and emulsifiers removed) and is used in place of vegetable oil in Indian cooking. It has a flavour of its own and, as such, may take a bit of getting used to, but it has a very long shelflife – ten years plus, in the unopened tin. Once the tin is opened it will last about six months before slowly going rancid. Ghee is only used in cooking, not as a spread; it cannot be mixed with water and reconstituted into butter. Ghee is a pure fat so unlike the original butter, it has a sharp melting point, going from solid directly to liquid with no soft spreadable phase in between. Also, when you finally do apply a bit to bread it tastes revolting, very fatty and unpleasant.

Ghee is available from Asian, Middle Eastern and Indian food shops in sealed tins ranging from 250 gram up to two kilogram sizes. Don't be fooled by the Arabic writing on the side of the tin, it's all Aussie produce. There is also a 10 kilogram pail but it is not so well sealed.

Butter

In Asian food stores you will see tinned butter, produced for the export market. According to the manufacturers of this type of tinned butter it only has a storage life of six months and so is not suitable for long-time storage. A dehydrated 'butter concentrate' is produced for the Queensland Butter Marketing Board and is available through them; it will last over ten years in storage and requires no refrigeration after opening. It is, however, expensive and difficult to get. It is marketed in 28 gram tubes for campers and 375 gram tins.



SUNDRIES

These are the little niceties that can make living off your stores bearable, so don't totally neglect them in favour of the more sensible food storage items. They don't cost much and can be purchased a little at a time whenever you do your shopping.

Hot Drinks

The usual types (tea, coffee, Ovaltine, Milo and cocoa) can be stored for about 18 months to two years if kept dry, preferably in tins. There is nothing quite like a hot drink on a cold night to make you feel human again, also the caffeine content (if any) can give you a lift when you need it most.

Spreads

Jam, Vegemite and peanut butter seem to be the most popular and they all help to make your daily bread a bit less dry and uninteresting. Due to the previously mentioned problems with storing butter you will eventually need something to liven up your bread and the odd tin of jam will be a welcome change. Of the three, peanut butter has the shortest life in storage – 18 months maximum – because of its high oil content, the other two may last a number of years in storage.

Sauces

Again, these add flavour to bland meals and can disguise the taste of questionable ingredients. Tomato and chilli sauce can be home produced fairly easily with the right ingredients, as can other fruit sauces such as plum and apple sauce. The specialised production methods for soy and worcestershire sauces make them very difficult to home produce (they are produced by fermentation), but because of this they have a long storage life (in excess of two years). Some brands of soy sauce are mixed and not brewed, so if you intend storing it in any quantity you should ensure that you only buy the brewed type. In my experience 'kikkoman' soy sauce is the best quality for storage.

Sweets

These are the raw materials from which you can make endless treats for the whole family. Some, such as sugar, golden syrup and honey, will last almost indefinitely, but others, such as chocolate and tinned condensed milk, have limited shelflives and need to be rotated.

Herbs and Spices

These are relatively cheap, do not take up much space, store for a long time and are powerful flavouring agents. It is possible to grow your own herbs in most parts of Australia, but spices will only grow in the tropical areas of our country. The more common herbs and spices (cinnamon, cloves, basil, oregano, mint, ginger and pepper) are available from the local supermarket. Mixtures of herbs or spices, such as mixed herbs or curry powder, are available, sometimes in bulk amounts.

Dehydrated and Freeze-Dried Foods

Many of these products are available from supermarkets. Dried vegetable mixtures and dried fruit are all plentiful. Most have long shelflives and they are light and take up little storage space so they can be a valuable addition to your storage programme if you find them palatable. The two problems with them are that they can be expensive and they may need to be rehydrated before they can be eaten, so you should store extra water if dehydrated foods make up a large part of your food storage.

Next time I will give you some advice on how to store various foods and how to begin your food storage programme.

Livestock Health and Management

Information You Need but Haven't Known Where to Ask

If you have queries on any type of livestock send them in and we'll get our panel of experts to research the problem for you. Send them to Livestock Advice Page, Grass Roots, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666.

Reading about the need for flea repellents, here are two recipes from my home hint book, which may be of use to the readers.

Flea Repellant: Mix 1 teaspoon eucalyptus oil, 2 teaspoons ammonia and 250 ml tepid water, Shake well. Rub into areas where fleas congregate.

For Natural Resistance To Fleas: 'First I saturated my kitten with rosemary (steep rosemary pieces in boiling water and allow to cool), bundled the kitten in a towel and waited. Abandon cat! The fleas couldn't get off fast enough, they were all over me and everything else,' writes Jeanette Couch. After using 'search and destroy' tactics, about 75 percent of fleas had disappeared.

'About two hours later, I steeped a quarter cup of pennyroyal and half a cup of rosemary in boiling water for 15 minutes, cooled but didn't strain the mixture and poured it over puss. This treatment killed the remaining fleas almost immediately. The kitten is now fluffy, comfortable and smells delightfully of herbs.'

Carol M.
Redland Bay 4165.

I came across a hint recently which may help GR cat owners, I'm sure the publishers of the newsletter wouldn't mind us recycling it. It was in *Aromatics*, the newsletter of the Australian Aromatherapists Association, PO Box 138, Surry Hills 2010. I always find helpful health or household hints in it. The problem concerned a cat persistently soiling carpet in the house, and the recommendation was to mix equal parts of aniseed oil and citronella oil, clean the carpet with Martha Gardner Wool Wash, then lightly apply the mix over and around the spot favoured. The cat may go to a new spot next time so apply the same procedure, and repeat for any other soilings.

Jenny Waverly,
Sale 3850.

I have just read the livestock section of GR 102. I would like to thank June Tissall and Pat Lever for their advice. The flea collars were taken off when I got the second cat in case they licked each other. So far I have not seen fleas on my cats. Soon after writing to you I went on holidays and to my horror I caught my two cats in a 'real' fight, they were yelling and hissing, at each other's throats, claws sank wherever possible and fur was flying. Fortunately, my shouting was enough to break the fight, it ended with a glare, ears back and tails waving. It was (in a way) a relief to know the cause of the sores – not an allergy – after so much expense. The remedy is simply to lock one cat at the front of the house and one cat at the back when I go to work, when I come home they are glad to see each other.

Pascale Bourot,
Narwee 2209.

My young daughter would like to keep a pet rabbit but we're unsure what it can or cannot eat in the way of weeds, particularly in relation to where we live, near the NSW/Qld border. There is plenty of info around covering the introduced weeds found in our backyards but little about those specific to the northern climes of Australia. My main concern is that I've read pet rabbits are unable to distinguish between good and bad tucker, regardless of whether they are in good health or starving. Advice from experienced readers would be invaluable.

Anna Starbright,
Tweed Heads 3845.

Recently one of our bantams has been laying eggs with blood spots in them. Is there anything we can do about this.

Malcolm Phillips,
Renmark 5341.

Blood or meat spots in eggs are very disconcerting, the former being caused when a small vessel in the ovary or oviduct ruptures, the latter arising from depositions of degenerated blood clots in the egg. Blood spots have a hereditary component, so it would be unwise to breed from your hen. The incidence increases with age, as it does for meat spots. Meat spots are most commonly found in dark shelled eggs, while blood spots seem to be associated with white shelled eggs. Avoid sudden upsets or startling the birds, as this exaceberates the problem.

With reference to the article 'Outsmarting Chooks' (GR 95): an easy way to make an antiscratching feeder is with a length of 90 millimetre PVC stormwater pipe. Use a hacksaw or angle grinder to cut out a five or six centimetre strip from the top of the pipe. This allows access to the chooks' heads only. To prevent the pipe from moving, wedge it between bricks or stones.

Craig Melrose,
Thora 2454.

POULTRY BREEDERS

Do you want to be listed in the 3rd Edition of the *Poultry Breeders Directory?* Work will shortly start on updating this popular directory, for publication later in 1994. If you have purebred stock or eggs to sell and would like to be listed in the next Directory, send in a stamped SAE for an application form to PO Box 242, Euroa 3666. Listing is free, and entitles contributors to a 10% discount on purchase price of the Directory.

POULTRY BREEDERS DIRECTORY

A valuable resource guide for all poultry enthusiasts. Contains detailed information on purebred fowls as well as other avian species. Breeders Australia-wide are listed providing ready access for enquiries.

$9.95 posted from Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666.

MONEY MAKING IDEAS !!!!!!!!

Did you know that when it comes to making money, just one great idea is needed? If you're looking for ideas, then you need a copy of **Australian Business & Money Making Opportunities** magazine. It's available from Newsagents across Australia and New Zealand and is found in the business section. G.R readers can receive a sample copy by sending 3x45c stamps with your name & address to: AB&O, PO Box 518, Sth Windsor, NSW 2756. Fax:(045)77 6942.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear All,

A few issues back someone was looking for a herb to help their **ASTHMA.** When I used to get asthma I found a lot of help from the very oldest and toughest parsley I could find. (Naturally compost-grown not fertilised by animal or chemical fertilisers.) I would grab one of these old leaves and munch on it. One must be careful because it is easy to suck down a few crumbs of leaves into the already blocked up lungs and windpipe while you are gasping for breath, but I felt the benefit was worth the risk.

For **FLU** the best remedy I found was garlic. During the growing season take a strap of leaf about 200 millimetres long, roll it into a roll like a streamer, pop it into your mouth and hold it in your cheek – that is outside of your teeth but in the pouch of your cheek – and keep the flavour in your mouth, if the flavour dies down just a gentle crush with your teeth and it's back again. One strap lasts for hours, but when it's chewed out get another one. While garlic is dormant (not growing) you can use a clove of garlic in the same way but you may find it necessary to keep shifting it about in your mouth because it can burn the lining of the cheek if kept in the same spot too long. This, in conjuction with the water only diet for forty-eight hours, is about all that most need to get rid of flu.

In GR 99, a young person was looking for something to stop the teenage pimples. One day, hopefully soon, people will realise that most of this problem comes from diet. It comes from inside and, while putting stuff on the outside may make it easier to live with, it will not remove the cause. The cause mostly is dead food. Most of the food that most of us eat and drink today is dead. It has had the life forces, enzymes etc killed. Nature went to a lot of trouble to put these life forces into our fruits and vegetables and they have specific things to do. They cannot do these things if they are dead. We kill them by cooking, pasteurising, and chemically preserving. The life forces in seeds such as wheat etc are sleeping and should be woken by sprouting before being eaten. It is one thing to know the simple facts but quite another to do something about it. But anyone who really tries is not disappointed.

Alf Pickens,
PO Box 759, ECHUCA 3564.

Dear GR,

A group of landcarers wishes to establish an **AQUATIC STYLE VEGETABLE GARDEN.** Could any fellow GR readers advise us of any tried and tested types of aquatic vegies they have grown and the methods achieved to get results?

K W Pearson.
10 Church St, PATERSON 2421.

Dear GR Readers,

Like others, I too have been a GR reader for some years and have enjoyed reading of others' lives, their joys and tribulations. I feel it is now time for me to get in touch with others through this marvellous medium to let people know my dreams and aspirations. Perhaps you can help me achieve my dream.

We are a middle-aged couple who have not joined in the rat race for some years now, but simply live a balanced life reconnecting with nature and the spiritual side of our lives. We are looking for a **COMPATIBLE COUPLE** living on the land/farm with whom we can share our dream. My husband loves working outdoors in the vegie garden, looking after the animals (chickens, cows, sheep etc.), fixing fences, in fact, everything connected with self-sufficient living. I would like to set up/start a spiritual enlightenment retreat where GR's (and others of course) can come to receive spiritual healing and/or begin their inner journey of love, vision and discovery. Clients would be able to come for hourly sessions, weekend seminars/workshops and courses. I have many years experience and expertise in the following areas: psychic/spiritual development; spiritual and life counselling; relaxation; meditation; reiki therapy; use of crystals; past life regression; spiritual healing; colour therapy; awareness and use of universal energies; guided imagery; bringing god/goddess/all that is into your life. Unfortunately we do not have the farm/land to achieve this dream. I know there is someone out there somewhere who can help us help others. Where are you? Please write:

A P
16 Peer St, MOE 3825.

Dear Megg and Mary,

The articles appearing lately on remaking thickened woollies describe something I won't do as lumpy, thickened, usually faded, jumpers are an awful reminder of my childhood. What I have done in recent years is picked up various **WINDCHEATER REMNANTS** from op shops and markets and made up garments. The odd-shaped offcuts are then cut into interesting or unusual rounded-corner shaped pieces and made up (after overlocking) into random patchwork tops. Exquisite or colourful lightweight material scraps can be put on top of a wrong coloured piece of fleecy fabric and cut to shape; overlocked, and then two rows of ordinary machine stitching hold patches secure, one row on the outside edge of the overlocking. I think this is a much more attractive way to clothe a family as too many old shrunken hand-me-downs, no matter how well renovated, never appeal to anyone as much as a new garment.

Some of the things that puzzle me from readers' queries: First, why in heaven's name would any person aiming at a self-sufficient lifestyle buy land on the edge of a state forest? The wildlife will eat your fresh planted vegetables and trees quicker than you can plant them. A wise farmer said, 'Leave two farms between you and a state forest,' and I truly believe his wise words.

Next, so many people request information without trying to locate books on their subject. The most valuable **SOURCES FOR 'HOW-TO' BOOKS** are: McGills Authorised Newsagency P/L, 187 Elizabeth St, Melbourne 3000. Ph: 03-602-5566. Fax: 03-670-2849. OR, Technical Book & Magazine Co P/L, 295 Swanston St, Melbourne 3000. Ph: 03-663-3951. Fax: 03-663-2094. Technical Books will get books from overseas for you, if they know the title, printer etc. OR, Dover Publications Inc, 31 East 2nd St, Mineola, New York, 11501, USA.

The Dover complete catalogue of books in all fields offers 5200 fine quality paperbound books most priced from (US) $1 – $6. A free copy of this catalogue (No. 59069-0) can be sent to you on request. It's a great source of 'how-to' books.

June Connelly.
29 Dublin Rd, RINGWOOD EAST 3135.



Dear GR,

For the people asking for sausage recipes, I have two books on **SAUSAGE MAKING** which together should give all the information you could ever need. Michael Boddy's *Good Food Book*, published by Nelson 1984, and , Anthony & Araminta Hippisley Coxe's *Book of Sausages* published by Victor Gollancz Ltd (UK) 1987. My husband is allergic to MSG (monosodium glutemate) and can't eat commercially prepared sausages – but so far we haven't got around to making anything more elaborate then meatball or burger-type mixtures. Michael Boddy gives a basic pork sausage recipe of 500 g pork fat, 1 kg lean pork, 3 tsp salt, 1 1/2 tsp ground black pepper, 1/4 tsp cayeene, 1 tsp sage, 1/4 tsp nutmeg, 1/2 tsp thyme. Mince meat, mix in seasonings and stuff.

For the people who want to know how to stop their cats from messing up the vegie patch – the only long-term solution is to **DE-SEX THE CATS** and not replace them when they die! The cats are not only messing up your vegie patch, they are messing up with Australia's wildlife – no matter how much you kid yourself that your cat doesn't kill birds/lizards/frogs.

Does anyone know how to **RE-THICKEN YOGHURT** once it has had fruit and sugar added to flavour it?

Clare Staines
CROWS NEST 4355.

Dear GR Readers,

My wife and I are ready for a change of lifestyle. Presently we live in a small rural town in the south-west of Western Australia. Now that our son has completed his education and is off to pursue his own interests, we are free at last to leave suburbia.

Where will we go? Certainly not to another suburban environment but somewhere with a warmer climate for preference and amongst people

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

with a compatible philosophy. That indicates to us that we should be investigating **MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY COMMUNITIES** and to this end we would like to hear from anyone who knows of a vacancy, either current or upcoming, which may suit us. Between us our skills include leadlight, textile design, machine knitting, silk painting, patchwork and carpentry. Our interests are in organic gardening and preservation of the environment. We envisage that it may take up to six months to sell our property and many possessions which we do not wish to keep. We intend to then buy a caravan. We will therefore have at least temporary accommodation so that we would consider a dwelling in need of finishing or repair but we would prefer not to start building from scratch.

Apart from establishing ourselves in a new home, we intend to travel extensively throughout the eastern states by caravan and are eager to offer our labour in exchange for somewhere to park, thus seeing the countryside and meeting other readers. Indeed, we'd like to hear from anyone with ideas that may assist us.

John & Cheryl Lockett
1 Dean St, MT BARKER 6324.

Dear GR Readers,

I have just completed a degree in **KOORI STUDIES** and really want to work with Aboriginal people on social justice or race relations issues. I'm not into missionary or religious work and I'm certainly not out to change indigenous beliefs or practices. Instead, I'm committed to the idea of self-determination, self-management and the maintenance of indigenous culture. But this is my problem: is it possible for a white person to become involved in this area without partially destroying what I am hoping to create? I would love to hear from Aboriginal people anywhere in Australia who can offer me some advice on this situation. What are your ideas and experiences of white people working within your organisations (health, education, media etc)? Is it possible for me to make a positive contribution in Aboriginal society and, if not, what can I do with all this wonderful knowledge I now have? Letters from non-aboriginal people who have worked in Aboriginal communities or organisations would also be most welcome. I promise to answer all letters.

Kathy Lothlan
1/718 Inkerman Rd, NTH CAULFIELD 3161.

Dear GR,

I'm 21 years old and am at present studying **AROMATHERAPY,** externally, and should have it completed in early 1994. I then intend to go on and study another alternative health modality, probably, the art of radiesthesia dowsing and radionics, and naturopathy, although this is quite expensive as I would be doing it externally. I am extremely interested in alternative health care and I believe I possess the dedication and commitment to become a distinguished aromatherapist/naturopath. I am looking for work in this particular field as I believe it is exceptionally important to gain hands-on experience and training whilst completing the course. I am particularly looking for work in the north QLD (Cairns) area, as I have lived there before and loved it. I have worked in laboratories for the last 4½ years and have extensive experience as a receptionist. I am also a qualified sugar chemist/cane tester.

I find alternative medicine and health care remarkably fascinating. I am a conscientious worker and possess a gregarious manner in any situation. If anyone has any ideas or is willing to give me a go, I would be more than happy to hear from you.

P Robinson
C/- Post Office, MARYBOROUGH 4650.

Dear Readers,

We are a young family of 4½ with general interests and will be moving onto our 170 acre bush block in June 1994. We will also be living an alternative lifestyle and our eldest daughter has spina bifida and is in a wheelchair. The reason I am writing is to find out if there is anybody in the **BELLBROOK/KEMPSEY** area who would be interested in making contact with me as we do not know anybody in the area. All letters replied.

Dianne Carroll
54 Lonus Ave, WHITEBRIDGE 2290.

Dear Grass Rooters,

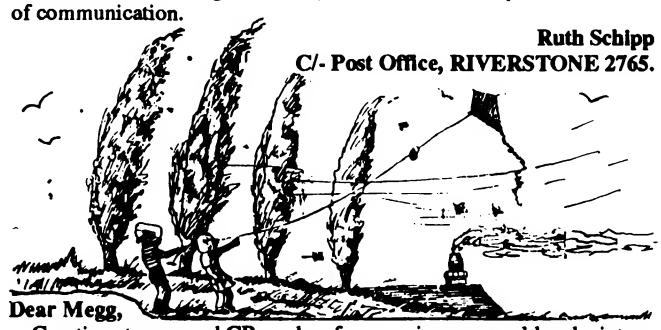
We are a family of five living in a big old house on a couple of acres 30 kilometres west of Ballarat. We also have a few horses, dogs, one very spoilt cat and a budgie, and a fairly laid back lifestyle. We would like to know if anyone could tell us how to build a **CLAY OR BRICK BREAD OVEN** for outdoors. Please write and let us know if you can help. Also if anybody wants penfriends to swap stories and dreams with you are most welcome, any age.

Esther Becker
C/- Post Office, LINTON 3360.

Dear GR,

I am hoping to make contact with any women who would enjoy the occasional company of myself and baby boy. I am mid 30s, a quiet sensitive person and have lived in the bush on and off since the late 70s, I really miss it and the odd few days away from the clatter of Sydney would be wonderful. I would be hoping for somewhere 2-3 hours drive from the city. If anyone, especially other mothers, would just like to write it would be lovely to share ideas and make **CONTACT WITH OTHER WOMEN** who are struggling to remain calm and find a way to realise their ideals. Maybe we could even pool resources in the long run. My interests include meditation, bushwalking, calligraphy, sewing, beachcombing, inner healing, and I very much value honesty and clear lines of communication.

Ruth Schipp
C/- Post Office, RIVERSTONE 2765.



Dear Megg,

Greetings to you and GR readers from me in a very cold and wintery England. I have been reading GR for about six years and had every intention of buying my own plot and dropping out of the fast lane to at last relax and enjoy life. Unfortunately fate and circumstances stepped in and brought me back here from my home in South Australia. I have been back here now for 2½ years and am now torn between the two countries.

I have to make my decision on where to live by October '94, that is a problem that only I can solve. I would however like to correspond with any GR readers who would like a **PENFRIEND.** I feel that I have lost touch with Australia and need to regain that link so that when the time comes I can make an informed decision on what to do with the rest of my life. I am a 46 year old male (divorced), by trade I am a diesel mechanic. I am also a fully qualified public house manager (pint puller) and also trained as a security officer. How's that for a mixture? Should anyone like to drop me a line I would be very pleased to hear from them and all letters will be answered.

If any inventive GR reader has discovered a way to put sunshine into envelopes I will pay for as many as they can send.

Derek Eagles
92 Granby Court, Granby,
Milton Keynes, MKI INF, UK.

Dear GR,

My partner and I have decided that we have had enough of living in the crowded urban environment of Sydney and will be moving to Orange, NSW. It has been satisfying for both of us to discover through reading GR that there exists in this country a band of people who have values beyond the making of the fast buck and who view material goods as not an end in themselves. We are looking forward to a simpler yet more fruitful existence in **ORANGE** and would be happy to hear from any other GR readers in the district.

Finally, having exhausted orthodox means in the pursuit of a cure for a longstanding problem of **RED EYES,** I am wondering whether someone may be able to offer me a suggestion or two that may alleviate this frustrating condition.

Jonathan Monkhouse
C/- 101 March Rd, ORANGE 2800.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Feedback/Linkup,

We have a **DIAMANT D525 FLOUR MILL.** Does anyone know where to get spare parts for these Danish mills? We need new grinding discs.

Also is there anyone out there who would be kind enough to send us some information on **MAKING YOGHURT** with powdered milk? We have tried many times (using good quality milk powder) but each time the end result separates.

Does anyone know how to **POP RICE** (puffed rice, or any grains)? Is a special grain needed or is it purely the cooking technique?

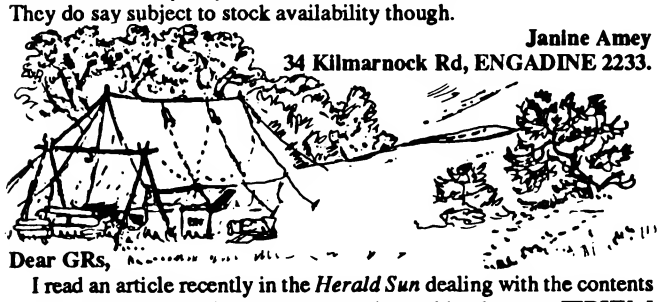
Is there anyone in Queensland who sells woodburning stoves (not slow combustion)? Something like the **WELCOME DOVER** for example. And finally, does anyone in Queensland have any **OLIVE TREES** to sell? Please allow 3-4 months for a reply as the postal service is a wee bit slow!

Jon Hickling
Middle Percy Island, Via MACKAY 4741.

Dear Grass Roots,

I came across something that I thought might interest other readers. I have been keen to obtain a **FOOD DEHYDRATOR** for many years and I saw in the *Women's Weekly* one available by mail order for $90 plus postage. This was a lot cheaper than the $200 – $400 I had seen them for sale at, so I took a punt and ordered it. It is fantastic! It comes with four trays for drying and has a fan forced motor. You can also use it for potpourri, jerky style meat and drying pasta, as well as fruit and vegetables. I have only had good results. If others are interested they could contact the company: ACP Direct (Australian Consolidated Press), GPO Box 7036, Sydney 2001. Ph: 02-260-0000. Freecall 008-252-515. They do say subject to stock availability though.

Janine Amey
34 Kilmarnock Rd, ENGADINE 2233.



Dear GRs,

I read an article recently in the *Herald Sun* dealing with the contents of your publication. My interest was enhanced by the term **JERKY**. I assume this is dried meat, using the American descriptive term. I last ate jerky some 15-20 years ago in California. It was the occasion of a Melbourne Walking Club trip to Sierra Nevada. Our US trail guide introduced us to this culinary 'delight'.

Being still an active bushwalker and now taking my grandsons along, I find in latter years that Australian produced dried foods, except dried fruits, have disappeared from walk-gear shops and are now displaced by freeze-dried NZ products which are quite expensive. In fact the cost for three persons on say a seven day walk is astronomical. Bushwalking (now called 'backpacking') is Australia's biggest generator of tourist income (official figures published in press). I have met many visitors who are just people on average incomes or students, and need to economise. There is a distinct niche in the packet food line for meat-based dried meals similar to an old favourite – 'farmhouse stew' – much more filling and palatable than the Asian, rice, noodles etc!

I am unaware of whether your comments on jerky simply assisted people to make their own, or if you have a connection with any small local food producer of this item. If not, perhaps you could pass my comments on to a producer known to you. I recently saw an article on a producer from Sunraysia with a factory in Moorabbin area who was intending to enlarge his range of dried foods, mainly to suit Australians. No details were given of items produced. I would hope that Australian produced jerky (at least for bushwalkers' use as opposed to use for marathon trans-Australian 'trekkers') would be reasonably chewable in a limited time!

N H Taylor
10 Zenith St, PASCOE VALE 3044.

Dear GR Readers,

I am a 25 year old single mum with a nearly-two-year-old son and I am sick of the cutthroat mentality of modern 1990's living, where bigger is better and to hell with everything and everyone; where 'what's mine is mine and if I can get yours too, I will'. I want out!!! I want a lifestyle where the community works together towards self-sufficiency, with a give and take attitude towards the environment; where the people have a respect for one another – a supportive, sharing, caring environment for my son to grow up in where the value of life and a healthy planet is more important than the value of the dollar.

So I guess what my son and I are seeking is to rent a cottage or share a home on a **COLLECTIVE FARM COMMUNITY** on the eastern Victorian or NSW coast or hinterlands, where such values are important, where everyone works together and shares the rewards of our labours. As we have no savings we would be unable to purchase a share in such a community (at least not in the near future), but I am hoping that this will not hinder our desire to reshape our way of living. I believe spirituality comes from within one's self so I am not looking for spiritual direction, but I do have an open mind with regard to alternative healing methods and the alternative style of living in general. I admit my knowledge of how to sustain such a lifestyle is limited, but I want to learn so that I may pass on this knowledge to my precious son. Anyone who knows of or lives in such a community, where we might be welcome, I would really like to hear from you.

Kate Burrowes
18/29 Main Rd, LOWER PLENTY 3093.

Dear GR People,

I'm a youngish person with a stable partner who is looking to take the best of city life to the country. I want to combine practical self-sufficiency ideas with a professional ethos. I would appreciate any stories, good or bad, from people who have made the break. My Shangrila would be a property, amiable to vegetable growing, and somewhere to walk, talk and enjoy a natural and peaceful environment.

I don't want to desert city ideas, just transfer them to an environment of privacy, pride and, to top it off, 'decentralise'. We live in the days of phone, fax and computer, so why do I have to live like a sardine with all the other fish?

Tim Bannister
13 Frederick St, MAYLANDS 5069.

Dear Megg and Co,

What a fabulous magazine. My husband and I thoroughly enjoy every issue we can lay our hands on.

I am writing to ask for help from all those women out there who know how to run a house successfully. Any ideas/suggestions on how to organise a house (and children), how to stick to routines, in fact anything you may think could help a young mother of 2½ children to become organised.

Also I would like to make an appeal to all mothers of daughters. If you already know the pains and discomfort of varicose veins with pregnancy (especially advanced cases), please don't wait till too late to tell your daughter. Both my mother and grandmother suffered from severe **VARICOSE VEINS** which contributed to their inability to have more children, they only had four each. They were both kind enough to tell me, after my second child, to be very careful to avoid serious varicose veins by any means available. Unfortunately they were one and a half children too late. I shall probably stop at three children.

A wonderful loving gift to give your newly pregnant daughter would be a pair of proper support stockings and an unembarrassed discussion on the discomfort of advanced varicose veins.

My husband would be very grateful for any information regarding the **MAKING OF SALAMI.** From scratch please. Though interested, we have no info at all.

R & R Wells
16 Cambridge St, CHARTERS TOWERS 4820.

Dear GR Team,

Check your local Mitre 11 for **BED FRAMES,** very handy for shelves, benches, and a good source of lightweight angle iron. The mesh can be used as lattice for growing purposes, all free. Won't find that down the local library.

T.Tranter,
14 Clubhouse Rd, SEACLIFF PARK 5049.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Grass Rooters,

We are a German couple (both Australian citizens) who want to establish a registered settlement co-operative – **MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY.** We need every help in all kinds of questions which may occur in respect of: administration, real estate agencies, legal affairs, literature etc. We would very much appreciate it if you could give us some advice.

Please write to or ring:

Eberhard Bendix
3/14 Payne St, INDOOROOPILLY 4068.
Ph: 07-378-4490.

Dear GR Readers,

I am a regular reader of this lovely magazine which is so full of practical information. I am a registered nurse who lives on a property with my son. We love pets and are crazy gardeners too.

I would like a **RETIRED FARMING COUPLE** to share this big house and to share their knowledge with us to work together. Nonsmokers please. I am sure GR readers will be concerned for nature and not into chemicals which pollute the earth. If anyone is interested do contact me on 07-289-4309 (Samford) in the morning up to 12 noon each day, or write.

Pushpa Paramsothy
Lot 3, Greenmount Court, MT SAMSON 4520.

Dear GR Folk,

I am 20 and living with my 17 year old girlfriend and 3 month old baby. We have had an interest in alternative living and have just discovered GR. Oh how much we've missed! Your mag is the most informative and consistently interesting one we've ever read. Unfortunately it is just good reading for us at the moment (and good dreaming) as we have no land, and not even a yard to speak of. Joe is currently trying to grow some vegies in old polystyrene fruit boxes on our verandah, but this is far from what we want. We would love to own our own land and (mud brick) house one day, but this is a long way off as we are living on the dole at the moment.

Northern NSW is our target and we would love to hear from anyone who would like to give us, part of the new generation of **'EARTH-MINDED' PEOPLE**, a chance to experience the friendly, healthy and best environment in which to raise our child. We don't mind getting our hands dirty (in fact we love it) to work for this opportunity. Please won't someone save us from this prison that mainstream life calls 'civilisation'? Also if anyone has any info on natural dyeing techniques (using plants, etc) for fabrics (not wool), or about folklore patterns (Kerri & Co GR 88) please contact us.

Joe Ann & Brodie Turner
69 Farnham Rd, HEALESVILLE 3777.

Dear GR Readers,

We have spent many years reading your magazine and we have noticed people with GR tendencies buy land and try to live a self-sufficient lifestyle but fail due to having acquired the wrong type of property. We have seen land sold as being good for small crops and having plentiful water when this has not been the case. Sometimes we feel the type of people reading your publication have been targeted for some very sharp practices to say the least. They have been sold marginal and barren land, usually in good times, that is dry and unproductive 90 percent of the time.

We are willing to **ASSIST ANY READERS** that intend to buy land in south-east Queensland. We have a good knowledge of farms and small crops land in our area. We can offer this service at a very low cost plus expenses. This is to ensure that the land they buy is suitable for the purposes they require.

We also seek a lady with GR principles to live with us as a member of the family, one child would be no problem. We do need this lady to help us with this project. Hoping to hear from you in the near future. Nationality is not a consideration as we care for all peoples.

Peter & Debbie Brougham
6 Dwyer St, BEACHMERE 4510.

Dear GR Readers,

I am looking for old friends of my mother, **PETER & SALLY DAVIES.** They first met in Burleigh Heads, Qld in 1963 and later in Wangaratta, Vic 1966. Last contact was Williamstown where they lived with their four children, and Peter leased the North Altona petrol station, he was a mechanic by trade. We think they may have moved back to England. If anyone knows of their whereabouts or has advice on how to trace them in England my mother would love to hear, as she is going to England and would love to see them again.

Dianne McFarlane
PO Box 424, WOODEND 3442.

Dear Grass Roots Readers,

Whilst I commend the article called 'Top Twenty Fire Retardant Species' for some if its design recommendations, I was horrified to see that the Natural Resources Conservation League in Victoria is still selling species that are **INVASIVE ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS.** Invasion of our bushland by exotic plants (including Australian natives grown outside their natural range) is one of our most silent and deadly conservation problems.

Environmental weeds are often quick to invade and, not being part of the natural co-evolved ecosystems, can cause a collapse in indigenous plant and animal diversity. They are often impossible to remove and may be distributed over many kilometres into inaccessible and rarely visited places. In addition, many of the species recommended in the article to be procured from nurseries, occur naturally in many parts of Australia. To plant nursery originated stock of unknown genetic origin is to introduce foreign genetic material into the wild populations.

The genetic makeup of local populations is no accident. It is the result of a millenia of evolution, competition and adaptation to suit very localised conditions. Foreign genes introduced via cross-pollination between plants obtained from nurseries and the wild bush relatives means de-adapting those wild plants from the environment that they evolved in. It also means the animals, fungi and other microbes co-adapted to that species may be so no longer. This is genetic engineering of an insidious nature.

There is some good advice in the article, such as using gum barked eucalyptus, or summer growing kangaroo grass, but please pick species local to the area and grow them (or have them grown) from locally collected seed. This is part of what you can do to preserve the beautiful wild diversity of Australia's unique ecosystems and to help live in harmony with them.

You could also write to the NRCL, 593 Springvale Rd, Springvale Sth, 3172, and ask them to stop selling species they have long known to be invasive. Of the species listed in their table, the following are invasive in some parts of Australia: *Acacia baileyana, Acacia elata, Hakea laurina, Hakea salicifolia, Hakea suaveolens, Pittosporum eugenoides, Pittosporum tenuifolium, Eucalyptus maculata, Grevillia rosmariniifolia.*

I have put in for an Australian Heritage Commission grant to write a book on this problem, plus the myriad of other problems we cause by simply living near the bush. It will be called *'Living With The Bush'* and is to be published by the Tasmanian Environment Centre. If I get the grant, it will be published in about 18 months. Ecological sustainability requires more than love, care and spiritual attachment to the land. It requires information and thought. Let's hope the NRCL will now respond to these requirement and change their ways.

John Robin (Plant Ecologist).
JACKEY'S MARSH, 7304.



Hi,

In GR some readers asked for help about walnuts. Nature Sunshine has WALNUT and Tei fu oil which is very helpful for cold sores. Cold sores are a herpes too.

Leny.

Dear GR,

I would like readers to know that if they wrote to **DAD'S ARMY** Australia, for a free catalogue on 132 Home Based Businesses, and have not received any reply they should please write again, as your letters may have been in the batch of letters that vandals destroyed in my mail box in December '93. Now new address: Dad's Army Australia, PO Box 501, BUDDINA 4560. Please send again.

Noel W Galley.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Hi Megg & Staff,

Over the years people have requested info on **INCUBATORS** for hatching small numbers of eggs, say a dozen or so at a time. When I was a kid, Chandlers in Cairns had a demonstration in their shop window to promote the introduction of the Sunbeam **FRYPAN** and showed how you could control the heat of them. They had a pan that had a glass lid and they drilled a hole in it big enough to put a hospital thermometer through. Inside was a wire rack close to the bottom, on that was a layer of cotton wool to lay the eggs on. I think there were a dozen marked 1/2/74, so the eggs could be rolled every day. I do not know the temperature or if there was any humidity of any kind, but I guess the info could be obtained from a library or a poultry farm. A frypan could be obtained from a second-hand shop. A glass lid would not be needed, the metal one would be OK, but the days of incubation would have to be watched and the normal caring of the day-old chicks carried out. I hope this info will help people out and thanks for the years of enjoyable reading.

Graham Ziegenfusz
PO Box 78, MT GARNET 4872.

GR 33 contained an article about frying pan chooks. We are amazed at how often this topic resurfaces.



Dear GR,

I'm hoping someone may be able to shed light on a subject that's been bothering me for some time, to wit: the **SAFE DISPOSAL OF DARK-ROOM CHEMICALS.** When I lived in the city I had a darkroom at home and used it often, never thinking of what went down the sink after each printing session. Now I'm living in the country with a septic system and transpiration trench I'm very careful about such things. I still have all the equipment and would love to get back to printing my own (b&w) photos, but am reluctant to do anything that might contaminate my soil or the bush beyond my block. Any ideas?

Maeve Vella
Bucketts Way, BOORAL 2425.

Dear GR,

I'm an Aussie living in Tokyo trying to get the cash together to start my own dream. What I'd like to know is how do GR people living in areas away from places of employment get the money to buy all those extra little things one continually needs to buy for daily life?

I wrote quite some time ago suggesting that if people want work why not come over here to Japan and teach English. Well the situation has changed a lot. There are far more people coming over here now looking for English teaching than there are jobs available. I'm afraid the market is reaching saturation point and the hourly rates are also dropping. The lower pay also makes it extremely difficult for newcomers to establish themselves. I've met many people who had to leave after their finances had dwindled away to nothing. I believe one needs at least $2000 to get a working-holiday visa to come here – well that won't go very far and is certainly not enough to establish yourself properly. But having said that, there still are tens of thousands of foreigners here in Tokyo, from all countries, doing all sorts of jobs, as there is still a labour shortage in this country.

When I read all the descriptions of the fresh home-grown produce my mouth waters. Actually, it would be well worthwhile taking note of the Japanese diet. When I return to Australia I'm not surprised to see all the gross looking people when I see what they are eating. The Japanese diet contains very little fat and that's why they all have those oh-so-trim waists and often look decades younger than their Western counterparts. Japanese people often complain to me even about Chinese food, saying that the excess oil makes their stomachs feel heavy. And when Japanese come back from a trip to the US or Australia they will often have gained a lot of weight from all the rich food they've been eating.

Well living in an apartment here in Tokyo I don't have a garden so I grow orchids in a plastic plant house by the window and I keep and breed discus fish. I'd love to get letters, all of which will be answered, and wonder if there are any other readers in these parts?

Kurt Ruzsicska
202 Ogata Bld,
2-41-18 Sasazuka,
Shibuya-ka, TOKYO

Dear Grass Rooters,

In answer to John Costan's letter in GR 100 on page 11, I offer the following comments.

John correctly pointed out that the part on the company structure may be misleading to the reader in that it gives the impression that a **COMPANY STRUCTURE** pays more tax than any other structure. In certain situations this is true, in other situations, however, this is not true. However, I deliberately did not go into the issues of **TAX CREDITS,** dividends etc for the reason that the two-part article was limited by the number of pages allocated to me. It is impossible to cover all issues relating to taxation of small landholders in such a two-part article, as indicated in the closing words of Part 2, page 63, GR 98.

The article was written in very general terms explaining the very basics of taxation as it related to the small landholder. The best advice I can provide is to read the article carefully, prepare a list of your own questions to which you wish to know answers and contact your accountant/tax agent/solicitor for further advice. When it comes to specifics, general advice can only serve as a guide. No one should ever act on general information given in taxation/legal articles until further specific legal advice has been given. There are usually other factors which apply and about which you should know, and only your solicitor or accountant can tell you that. Remember too that laws change frequently and may have changed by the time a reader acts on what was initially read. In terms of law, there are no two situations which are exactly the same – more reason to treat articles such as these as general information only.

I also mentioned in the closing lines of Part 2 of the article that my book *Reducing Your Tax – Making Income Tax Laws Work For You* explains taxation relating to business dealings in a more detailed way than the two articles possibly could do. As many public libraries have my book in their collections, you might be able to borrow it either directly or on interlibrary loan.

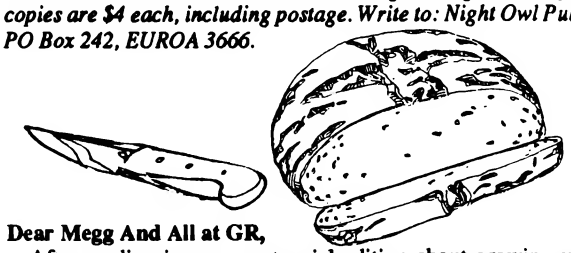
Herman Odijk
PO Box 112, MOUNT MORGAN 4714.

Dear Grass Roots Editors,

I recently discovered your magazine for the first time and have just received my very first copy from you. Thank you all very much for great worthwhile reading. I was wondering if someone could give me a recipe for **SOURDOUGH BREAD.** I'm having trouble getting a good starter going, it's been far too moist even when it comes out of the oven. I would be very appreciative if someone could help me out. God bless all for '94.

S Casey
2 Tasol St, BLI BLI 4560.

GR 86 contained an article about sourdough, along with recipes. Back copies are $4 each, including postage. Write to: Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.



Dear Megg And All at GR,

After reading in your centennial edition about growing your own mushrooms, I was left wondering where I could get some mushroom spore. Any ideas? I was also reading about **ARTHRITIS SUFFERERS** and I believe I may be able to help. I grow the herb *Centella cordifolia* or swamp pennywort. From all reports it is very effective in relieving the symptoms of this crippling disease. Any enquiries can be made at the Overnewton Gatehouse art and craft market (stall 66), Old Calder Hwy, Keilor (Melway ref 14 E4) or write to me at: 44 Bruce Street Laverton 3028, or Ph: 03-315-6872. Thanks for hanging in there for this 20 years and onward and upward to the next 20!

Dave Carroll.

GR 86 had an article about growing mushrooms at home. At that time spore was available from: Mushroom Growers, Cookes Rd, Mernda 3754 (Ph: 03-717-3777), and Mushroom Market, 15 Mahoney's Rd, Keon Park 3073 (Ph: 03-469-5258). The Australian Mushroom Growers Assoc, PO Box 236, Baulkham Hills 2153, may also be able to help you. See GR 102 for an article about pennywort.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Friends,

I often read in GR the term 'like-minded people'. Not everyone is in the position of living in like-minded communities so why not try to make your environment 'like-minded'. It is very simple and costs nothing but yourself. First step is to recognise we are all different as individuals.

Respect the rights of other people to be who they are. Just because they may not see and appreciate your dreams doesn't make them wrong. What they dream and feel is right for them.

Compassion is another emotion which should be nurtured. A kind smile and a friendly hello can go a long way. Walk down the street or supermarket aisle and look at the faces and see how few people smile. A thank you and a smile to the checkout girl etc can make you feel really good. It's surprising how your smile can bring a smile to someone else's face.

Talk softly, don't shout, and become a good listener. If someone is wailing about their troubles listen, but don't get involved. Instead of saying, 'I would do this', ask them what they want to do about the problem. Only they can live and solve problems for themselves. Be supportive of their decisions. You can gather together 20 people who share similar dreams, but each and every one of these people are individuals. Appreciate the differences – respect each other's awareness and don't judge anyone. This is the most important aspect of relationships. We enjoy judging people when all the time we are not that person in that particular situation.

Love, respect and show compassion and friendship and these qualities can solve all dilemmas. Live these qualities within yourself and they will flow outwards towards others no matter who or what they are. Be thankful every day that you can do something positive. Forget all the doom and gloom. A magnificent tree grows from a tiny seed. Be the seed. Grow quietly. Love and respect life.

Daphne.

Dear Grass Rooters,

I've been reading this great mag for ages. I usually end up either in the garden under our shady oak or curled up in front of the fire reading it from cover to cover and back again!

My hubby and I were born and bred on farms. We are now in the process of buying our own small farm. The house will need to be **RESTUMPED** – probably only some. Hubby and I hope to do it ourselves and would appreciate any stories, tips and problems. We are also on the lookout for an old hall (or similar) as an extension. If you know of one please drop us a line. We are working towards a certain degree of self-sufficiency. We have our own fruit and vegies, chooks, ducks, lamb, beef and goats. We used to have cows. I make our own soap, shampoos, some bread and have just started making paper.

Does anyone know of a recipe for soap using goat's milk? Anyone wanting a pal please write. I am 26 with 4 children aged 8, 5, 4 & 2. Many interests.

Debbie Smith
C/- PO, MORIAC 3240.



Dear Grass Roots,

Can anyone help me with plans to construct a **COMPOSTING TOILET?** The design needs to be simple, efficient and of easily-obtainable materials.

For those who have a problem with **PARALYSIS TICK** – I treat my animals, when affected, with injectable vitamin C – the earlier the better. With dogs, I offer the tick to them to eat when removed as this apparently builds up a natural immunity. Sulphur (edible) can be added to mollasses for stock to reduce tick and fly infestation – I use $^1/_3$ cup sulphur/two gallons mollasses approximately every two weeks for four cows. It is also good for goats though not as often as they are not affected so much.

Shelley Winter
PO Box 373, MALANDA 4885.

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your fantastic mag and may '94 be as fulfilling as your previous years. My brother first introduced me to GR and I will remain eternally grateful to him (Philip, I know you will be reading this), and I thank him and miss him dearly.

I have recently settled in **PERTH,** chasing a long-time dream of working as a photographer and I am searching for friends of GR to become friends of mine. If there is anyone here, 25-30, male or female, who would be interested in sharing a friendship, don't hesitate to write. I drink socially, I smoke, I love op-shopping, markets, bushwalking, live bands, photography, gardening, I don't have three legs or six arms, I am easy-going, very normal, I'm just looking for a friend I can share good times with, be you male or female, black, white or blue! Please write guys, all letters will be answered.

A helpful hint for birthday **GIFT WRAPPING.** My sister wraps my presents in her children's pictures and paintings from school and kinda. I love it, I then wrap theirs or others in same. I do keep some too.

Miss P Turner
89 Branksome Gardens, City Beach, PERTH 6015.



Dear Grass Roots Team,

I have read the **ONE HUNDREDTH COPY** from cover to cover and although it was very interesting to see how you started out, one thing stood out very clearly; not one word was printed in the magazine of what those people featured in the No1 issue are doing in 1993.

All I could think of was, all that waste of space on the pages (page 38 particularly) as almost 50 percent of the page was blank. While purists would appreciate an exact copy of the No1 magazine, I would have appreciated a potted history of the exploits of the people featured in the magazine filling up all those blank spaces. Most people appreciate human interest stories and perhaps in the next issue some space could be given to an update on these folk. Have they continued with GR ideas or have they given up?

The 1993 part of your magazine (100) was totally appreciated. I do love it and look forward to each new copy. Thank you for all the good ideas, the Feedback pages and genuinely interesting articles printed in each new copy. It makes me push even harder to opt out of the rat race and have been doing up the house to sell and searching for my bit of paradise, which was surprisingly easy to find as there is a lot of land being advertised at the moment; but when I found it I couldn't afford it, so have to search on.

Thanking you, please don't forget an update on the folk in No1.

June Connelly
29 Dublin Road, RINGWOOD EAST 3135.

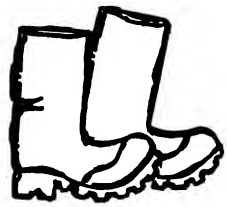
Sorry if it disappointed you June, but there is no way we could have filled up the blank spaces in our reprint of GR 1. The cost would have been prohibitive and the time involved enormous. It was already a very time consuming task. Even if the technical details, time and cost problems could have been overcome, we think it would have looked very messy and confusing for readers, and it would certainly have lacked the authenticity we were attempting to replicate. By the way, we pride ourselves now on the lack of blank spaces in GR. It is one of the unique features which, ensures that GR contains the most reading for the number of pages.

If any of the original contributors in GR 1 are still reading we would love to hear from you with an update on your lives and self-sufficiency (or lack thereof) pursuits.

Dear Grass Roots and Friends,

My plan is to buy acreage (more the better) in the **LANDER'S SHUTE AREA** (near Nambour), preferably with a dwelling. It needs to suit horses. I would appreciate any advice/local knowledge from anyone re things to be aware of – the local climate, winds, soils, aspect, pests etc. I am also interested in past uses of the area, from a historical interest, but also re any hidden environmental hazards – old mines or heavy chemical farming etc. So I would be grateful to hear from anyone of their experiences/advice. Look forward to hearing from you.

Nicole
PO Box 148, RED HILL 4059.



WINTER READING SPECIALS



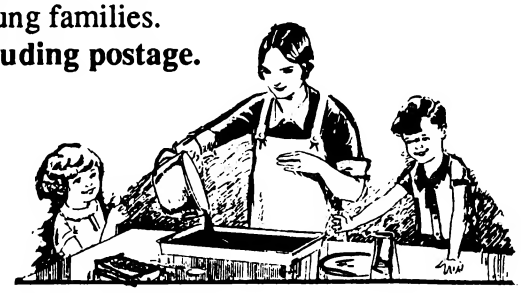
As the nights grow longer and the weather turns cold and bleak, curl up in front of the fire with some good reading.

Making Unemployment Work

More than a practical guide to living happily and constructively while unemployed, *Making Unemployment Work* shows the reader how to develop a better lifestyle by following up lots of alternatives not immediately obvious when you are working. Cheryl Paul's inspiring guide is important for those seeking to change their own lives, and is especially useful for young families.

Winter price $12.45, including postage.





Fireside Reader

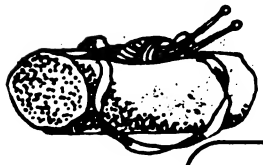
Remember those rainy days at home when all the family played games by the fire, read, or amused themselves by getting into some sort of mischief? The *Fireside Reader* is a thoroughly enjoyable collection of stories and activities to remind us of those times. It is packed with things to do, for adults and children, and stories to read together.

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This book may point you in a different direction or show you how you can change your family structure for the better.

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or order both for $15.00, including postage.



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See order form opposite for subscription details.

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Natural Horse Care (200 g)	$11.95	$ .....
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250-500g	$3.50
500g-2kg	$6.00

Book prices do not include post & packing.
Calculate total weight of books ordered (printed alongside the title), look up the list (left), write the cost in the post and packing space and add to the cover price, to get a total.

Post to: **Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666, Australia.**

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Grass Roots,

Congratulations on your 100 issues. Well done to you all, especially Megg and David. I don't think that I have ever seen a magazine that offers better value for money or more informative content. I especially enjoy Feedback and that brings me to my reason for writing.

I would like to answer two questions raised by 'GR fan' of Goondiwindi in issue 100. Normally I write direct to people if I feel I can help, but without a proper name that's not possible this time. First, I have a simple recipe for **WHITE OIL.** Just mix two cups oil and one cup water in a blender. You can use any type of vegetable oil, olive oil or seed oil, whatever you cook with. Whiz it up in a blender or hand-beat until white and dilute 1:50 with water to spray. If allowed to stand, the mix will separate and need to be reblended, so it's best to use straight away.

Secondly, with reference to sandalwood. There are quite a number of plants known as sandalwood, most of them are root parasitic. Some of the Australian native sandalwoods that have been harvested and used commercially in the past belong to the Santalum species. They are: *Santalum album* (white sandalwood), *Santalum spicatum* (fragrant or swan river sandalwood), *Santalum lanceolatum* (desert plum, including quandong). All should grow well in Goondiwindi, although *S album* is found native in Arnhem Land and on the east coast down to, at least, Townsville, so maybe it's not frost resistant.

Check with native plant nurseries, state forest tree sales and perhaps national parks nurseries to find out about seedlings. I know that WA State Forests department trialled a plot of *S spicatum* near Kalgoorlie some time ago. *Santalum spicatum* would be the most fragrant timber and is the one usually used for the distillation of essential oil. I hope I have been of some help.

Ian Lowe
C/- Post Office, SHEPPARTON 3630.

Dear GR,

We live on a five acre rural property where water is scarce. We are extending our house and will be putting in a second toilet. Have any Grassrooters had experience with the **ROTA LOO?** It's a composting toilet which uses no water. The idea sounds great but it's fairly expensive (although comparable with a septic tank) so we don't want to 'flush our money down the drain', so to speak. Could anyone who uses one of these please write to us advising if there are any disadvantages; is there any smell and, how do you keep the bowl clean if there is no flush device? Also, after the waste breaks down to humus, can it be used on the garden or does it have to be buried? We look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret & Andrew Simmons
PO Box 37, ROSEDALE 3847.



Dear GRs,

PATERSON'S CURSE is in plague proportions in north-east Victoria and south-east NSW. A recent article in a Melbourne newspaper stated weeds caused national production losses in agricultural crops of about $763 million a year and costs of $508 million to control.

Each year this curse of our country emerges unchecked and ever expanding to remind us how little we care about important issues. I am not an expert on this rampant weed, but am willing to place foot in mouth in exposing my thoughts on how this curse of our country might be checked.

I am sure our Asian neighbours would walk the hills and flats in large numbers with hoe and mattock and remove the weed from the earth, roots and all. This huge walk-through would be repeated each year until this curse was gone, or at least under control. To those who scoff at the idea, I remind them mountains are climbed one step at a time.

Could not the pulling and digging of Paterson's curse be offered as part-time, short-term jobs to the unemployed locally and nationally? Short-term, part-time because pluckers of this weed would be transported in groups by local school buses to the infected areas with bus owners paid by government for their service between say 9.30 and 2.30. The keen crunchers of this country's curse would still receive their unemployment payments, plus an agreed hourly rate for approximately five hours a day, which equals 25 hours per week. Property owners would collect and destroy (burn) all Paterson's curse removed and supply drinking water. Property owners who use this Paterson plucking service should pay a percentage of the total cost to the government.

Those who refuse the service but won't clear their land of the purple curse should be fined after fair notice.

My Paterson's curse remover, consisting of the pointed end of a 12 inch flat file, with the 'blunt' end let into a long piece of timber (30"), is excellent for the job. The 'handle' is about $1\frac{1}{4}$" x $1\frac{1}{4}$".

Bob Gibson
Dickson St, WOOMARGAMA 2644.

We certainly hope that more landowners are willing to put more physical effort, and less chemical poisons, into the effort to control Paterson's curse. If money is available to buy chemicals for this purpose, there is no good reason why money shouldn't be channelled into a scheme such as you describe. GR 102 contains an article on environmentally friendly control of this weed.

Hi, Megg, Mary and Staff,

It's a long time since I last wrote but this time I'm asking for help. Is there anybody within driving distance of Perth WA who can spare a **ROOT OF SUGAR CANE?** If anybody is a little further afield, I would willingly refund post and packaging and I would be most grateful.

Ken Hamilton-Brown
PO Box 1332, MIDLAND 6056.



Dear GRs,

I wonder if any readers could help me as I recently moved and am finding it very difficult to locate **SOURDOUGH** as I have to eliminate yeast from my diet as it is causing lots of health problems. I would appreciate either to be able to make the sourdough or to locate somewhere to purchase it. Health food stores in this area look at me with a big question mark. I want to be able to make bread and maybe other foods that normally contain yeast. Any help would be kindly received.

In my moving I seemed to have lost my supply of GRs. I'm looking for patterns, suggestions, ideas to make different types of **KITES.** Any help where I can get such. Also I want to make some stuffed scarecrow sort of dolls as I have been told by a friend that they can act as a deterrent to birds who want to nest.

The magazine if I recall had an article on how to make a **FLY TRAP.** I believe it was a triangular shape and left some rotting meat in a dish under which attracted flies. Any help in this quarter. I would be grateful for any suggestions/help/sketches etc.

S Cunningham
PO Box 67, BOOROWA 2586.

See another letter this issue for sourdough reference. There are many ideas for fly traps. We can't find the one you describe, but perhaps readers can send their successful ideas to you. It is also a good idea to plant repellant plants (mints, basils, lavender) close to your house to reduce fly numbers.

Dear GR and Friends,

We are a naturalist group of people on 35 acres of pristine bushland one hour from Sydney. We want to pump water up from the local river, and have salvaged an old oil engine that used to run a sawmill. We need help and advice about restoring it to working order. Do they still make them? It's a **BUZZACOT OIL ENGINE,** $2\frac{1}{2}$ HP – 1000 rpm. We think it starts on petrol then switches over to fuel oil or some such. Also we need carby-manifold and sparker box. Help?

Aquila & Robin
'Sun Valley',
Lot 20, Florence Ave, MINTO HEIGHTS 2566.

Dear Frustrated,

If you still have not been able to find a helper then just let me know. If you want anything that is difficult to buy please write to me because I will do my best to find out how for you. I also know through a long-time friend that it takes a long time, a lot of faith and belief in the path chosen to help yourself even with the availability of all needed.

Julie Miller
5 Matthew Rd, NAIRNE 5252.

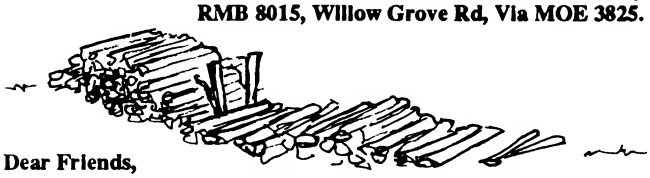
Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear GR,

I was interested in Peter Carr's article (GR 100) regarding **ELDERLY FARMERS.** I overcame the problem of moving heavy tractor implements by placing them on pallets and investing in a hand forklift. A concrete garage floor is essential. I now find moving and attaching equipment much easier. It also saves space as the tractor doesn't have to have access to every implement. Removing one implement to get to another is no problem. Because the concrete floor stretches several metres beyond the garage door, I am able to shift all the equipment outside within a few minutes in order to hose down the floor.

I found pallets also handy for firewood. I normally cut my firewood into one metre lengths with the chainsaw. I then transport them on the trailer to the bench saw where I cut them up into smaller lengths. However, by stacking the one metre lengths on pallets I am able to shift them much easier with the tractor and forklift attachment, which cost less than $200 second-hand. I find this particularly useful when I have to cut up a fallen tree but have no room in the wood shed. I can simply pick up the stack with my tractor and put it anywhere convenient till I need to take it to the bench saw.

Michael Riley
RMB 8015, Willow Grove Rd, Via MOE 3825.



Dear Friends,

We are seeking a **CORN SHELLER** to strip popping corn from the cob. Because it is popping corn it is important that the kernel not be damaged. Hand or engine operated is OK. We are just looking for something faster and less tiresome than our current methods which takes three hours for 10 kilos. We would like to acquire cheaply a machine or plans for one so that this cottage industry can become viable.

Don Speldewinde
32 Birdwood St, INNALOO 6018.

Dear GRs,

Help! I thoroughly enjoy living in the tropics, along the banks of a mangrove creek, except for the friendly sapsuckers. **MOSQUITOES! SANDFLIES!** What shall I do? They don't really bother me, it's the germs they carry that are the worry, especially with a nymph-like toddler in the garden. I am trying to chase up some mossie repelling plants that are useful in gardens and/or window boxes. The plants I've heard of are citronella, cedronella and Mossie Buster. That seems easy enough, but try finding out what they are! Here is the information I have found out so far. *Cedronella canariensas*: supposedly the genus name for citronella, a scented geranium. *Cedronella tryphylla*: a herbaceous bush with ferny lemon-scented leaves and pink to violet flowers, can be grown from seed. Citronella-scented geraniums (pelargonium). Mossie Buster: a genetically engineered plant from Canada. Citronella: a member of the citrus family. Pretty contradictory information!

I have also heard that lavender, eucalyptus and peppermint oils are good repellants, what about the plants themselves, are they effective? Could anyone straighten this out for me and, more importantly, tell me how to obtain some (seeds, cuttings, suppliers?) and use them properly in my garden? I will happily pay costs and postage for cuttings, seeds and/or actual plants. I suppose I could always resort to screens, but even they won't stop the sandflies. Has anyone tried painting their screens with neem, or any of the above oils to stop sandflies? Where can I get neem plants, seeds and/or extract? I know this sounds like all-out war, but I am just starting to design a permaculture garden and thought that a judicious sprinkling of mosquito repelling plants could be added. I also thought that window boxes filled with these plants could suffice instead of screens. Any help would be greatly appreciated. With all the information I collect, I hope to put together a short article so that others can share too. Until then, keep on slapping!

J Resing
5 Cape St, SOUTH TOWNSVILLE 4810.

No matter how many mossie repellant plants you have around the garden and on window sills (although they will have some effect) nothing will be as effective in keeping insects out of your home as screens on all doors and windows. Basil works well as a fly repellant and perhaps will be effective for mosquitoes as well. Tansy leaves, bruised and rubbed on the skin, are known to deter mossies, but must be applied frequently while outdoors. Place your repellant plants along pathways and areas where they will be rubbed against by passing people; this will better release the aroma which repells the insects. We featured some articles on neem in GR 98. For more information contact: Joe A Friend, Ausneem Plantations, PO Box 1239, Atherton 4833. Ph: 070-914-188.

Dear GR Readers,

Concerning Leanne's letter in the 100th edition regarding her son and asthma. My middle child was diagnosed as a chronic asthmatic at three months old. In that time there has been a lot of heartache. My friend who is a herbalist has suggested a plant known as **COLTSFOOT.** I have tried to locate this plant to no avail. To my knowledge it is illegal, but for my child's health (who is now ten years and still suffers) I would try anything that is natural. With the amount of drugs, including dosages of steroids, his immune system is shot.

If anyone has any information of this plant coltsfoot could you please contact me? From there I can find out what to do and share it with anyone who is interested.

Ria Murray
Lot 160, Harvey Rd, GLENWOOD 4570.

Can anyone enlighten us about coltsfoot? Our references all mention it as being excellent for use as an expectorant in cough mixtures, but we can find no information that it is illegal. Perhaps someone in Ria's area has plants and/or knowledge they can share with her.

Dear Readers,

We live on a 40 acre property one hour north of Adelaide and would like to share it with other **CAT LOVERS.** It's people who have ruined the environment not cats. There are grapes, lots of trees, a big spring-fed dam, no electricity or town water and it's situated five kilometres from a large town. Drop us a line if you're interested.

Sandra
PO Box 173, CLARE 5453.

Dear GR,

I am a Kiwi currently travelling throughout Australia and am trying to gather some knowledge on earth building, particularly **RAMMED EARTH,** as I go.

Do any readers have any knowledge on rammed earth that they are willing to share or is anyone able to recommend any practical books on the subject? I am also very interested in visiting any earth houses in my travels and if possible helping in the construction of any rammed earth buildings.

I plan to build a small house incorporating limestone walls and an earth roof upon my return to NZ and would like to gather as much info and experience as I can before commencing. Any advice would be appreciated. C/- Poste Resante, Katherine NT 0851, or, C/- Mangarara, PO Box 100, Nuhaka, HB, New Zealand.

Sheryn Dean.

G'Day All,

Allan and I, both 27, and Matthew, 3, moved to this semi-rural house a few months ago. Is there anyone in the **RIPLEY AREA** who would like to get together for a chat? I am a Christian who loves to sew and spin, and hopes to learn to quilt this year. Hope there's someone out there.

Kathy Nielsen
4 Falvey St, RIPLEY 4306.

Dear Grass Roots,

I live in a town of 1250 people and I have decided to see what I can do to reduce the size of the mountain of garbage that is wasted each week here. Anything anyone can offer me by way of **RECYCLING IDEAS** which do not involve sending the sorted product away (huge distances involved) or large capital investment (the area is reeling from the drought and cash is almost nonexistent) would be greatly appreciated. At the moment, anything from grass clippings to old cars, newspapers to animal carcasses, engine oil to demolished houses, goes into landfill. I just think there has to be a better way, that may even be income-generating in the long term, but it must be cost-neutral in the short term. All replies will be acknowledged.

Jeannette Elliott
PO Box 110, WINTON 4735.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear GR Readers,

Would anyone out there be willing to write and let us know of an area in **SOUTHERN NSW** or **NORTHERN VICTORIA** that has a temperate climate? Mainly the actual temperature winter can reach – highest and lowest, also the same for summer, not average temps. We are retired country people and love the bush and open spaces and the ocean has a fascination too, would consider any of these options. Presently living in northern NSW but finding the humidity too hard to take, would like to go further south for family reasons too. Hoping someone can help with suggestions, all letter will be answered.

Joan Slorach
11 Craiglea Crt, MODANVILLE 2480.

Dear GR Readers,

I would be interested to hear from anyone with any information about **CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME**, also known as **ME**, post viral syndrome, or yuppie flu. Anything may help: stories of what's helped you or friends, newspaper clippings, ideas, etc. Also I am willing to share my experiences of things that have and haven't helped me. So far I've tried diets, acupuncture, Chinese medicine, herbal medicine, vitamin therapy, conventional and homoeopathic medicine, a Harley Street specialist who diagnosed 'hyperventilation syndrome', and, at the moment thermal hydrotherapy (very promising).

Karajaal
114 Forrest St, EAST FREMANTLE 6158.



Dear GR Readers,

We are seeking any information (including problems) and/or photos of your efforts at **OWNER BUILT HOMES** (stone/mud brick etc.). We have no experience whatsoever in this field. We hope to start building by the end of 1995 and the area has a large amount of rock in the ground. Also any information on **COMPOSTING TOILETS** from someone who owns one would be of assistance as well. We would be most grateful to hear of your experiences both good and bad.

M & S Anderson
C/- PO Box 707, INGHAM 4850.

Dear Readers,

I was hoping that someone would have recipes for **HOMEMADE SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER** and a face cleanser that they are willing to share with me. I find the supermarket varieties too expensive and I prefer to make my own, as it gives me pleasure to do so and I know exactly what goes into them. It would be much appreciated.

If there is anyone who would like to write to a 19 year old girl who enjoys the great outdoors, camping, fishing, gardening, exercising, cooking, doesn't mind the occasional night out and is pretty much a greenie, feel free to drop me a line.

Beccy Lenz,
29 Excelsior Rd, GYMPIE 4570.

'Country Scents', by Alan B Hayes contains the recipes you require and many more. Available from: Night Owl Publishers, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666. $12.45 incl postage.

Dear Grass Roots,

We are writing to you because we are planning to build an **EARTHSHIP** to replace the ancient and dilapidated weatherboard house in which we currently live. We would really appreciate hearing from anyone who has built or is building an earthship, with a view to swapping ideas and getting first-hand knowledge of what's involved. The books we purchased from Solar Survival Architecture in New Mexico are very useful, but the USA is a long way to travel to actually see the product.

Jane Harding & Edis Dempsey
PO Box 36, BARADINE 2396.

Dear GR Readers,

Thank you for giving me the medium to express my perspective in a deep expression of emotion and feeling that I know will be understood and not conditioned or misinterpreted. I arrived in Nimbin, NSW, a rebel without a cause at 15. I constantly abused hallucinogenic drugs looking for answers and transcendental experiences, thus also making myself susceptible to various evil and corrupt forces. If it was not for the beautiful community of pure people with a knowledge of nature and love and the pure powers I would have quite easily perished with the cancerous disease of evil corruption and madness. I learnt to respect, believe and cherish the values expressed by these warriors of love and nature. To the elders of Tuntable Falls, especially the women, thank you from my eternal soul; I will always respect your way with heart and soul. Would love to hear from anyone, as I am full of love without an avenue of expression. I am 26, enlightened, beautiful and looking for a soul mate to journey through life and the cosmos with.

Ashley Moseley
C/- PO Box 32, CESSNOCK 2325.

Dear Megg, David and GR Readers,

We, Barry and Janet, are this year entering our 50s. We have successfully seen four daughters reach adulthood, achieve their aims in life, the youngest having just qualified as a doctor. Now it's time for us. We live in a very pleasant suburban situation, both holding down professional jobs, but it has always been our dream to live on acreage. Over the years we contemplated the move to the country but always put the girls first and opted for a continuing education programme for them. We have always been into recycling, no-dig gardens, self-sufficient in vegetables, even in suburbia. We have enjoyed GR for many years.

Please – if there is anyone out there, **AGED 50 PLUS**, who has made the 'big move' – could you write to us to either encourage or warn of difficulties. We are presently looking for acreage in far NE NSW or SE QLD. We can't move too far away from this area due to perceived responsibilities of ageing parents. Seems to us that you no sooner become free of children than parental responsibilities present themselves. We are determined to make our dream come true. Thank you for a wonderful inspiring magazine.

Janet & Barry Cox.
12 Clifford Cres, BANORA POINT 2486.

Hi There,

Two Feedback answers: Pauline Davis from Dunoon (GR 99), try **IRISH SODA BREAD**. 340 g unbleached SR flour, 340 g wholemeal SR flour, 1 level teaspoon bi-carb, 1 small carton buttermilk. Foolproof! Just mix together and put in a moderate oven for 3/4 hour.

Eleanor Emmerson from Cardiff, I have belonged to **CORRESPONDENCE MAGAZINES** for 22 years. It is a great way to meet people through letters and, as in my case, many have become personal friends. Each magazine rarely has more than 10 members, who can be Australia (or world) wide, or within a state. Usually letters are written monthly, so each month you receive a batch of letters, read and answer. You send one letter, answering all letters and the rest can read theirs and your letter. A cheap way of keeping in touch, you meet many new friends and letter writers are a great bunch of people. Only cost, the stamps. I can explain further if you write.

Terrie
12 Dawn Ave, CHESTER HILL 2162.

Dear Grass Roots,

My wife has had a severe problem with **ECZEMA** since she was a small child, particularly on her scalp. She remembers her mum rubbing thick coal tar into her scalp every second night (glad I didn't know her then!!). She has learnt to live with this condition even though she has tried everything you can think of, including untold home remedies, all offering temporary relief only.

So far evening primrose oil in massive doses and two pregnancies have been the best cure by far, but as you probably know primrose oil is not cheap, and falling pregnant continuously is a lot of work. Is there anything on the market, a cure or something out there in this world that will help? She says she is sick of scratching like a gorilla. Any help at all would be appreciated.

To Joe Montgomery Smith, I've lost your number, please ring.

Geoff Philp
PO Box 156, AIRLIE BEACH 4802.
Ph: 079-466-396.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear Readers,

I am an enthusiastic reader of GR magazine and when my daughter asked me what I'd like for Christmas....what better gift than a read of a wonderful, inspiring magazine for twelve months!

I am writing to ask if there are people in the **DROUIN AREA** of Gippsland who are like-minded like John (my husband) and myself. After 24 years of living in the city, we are finally free to build our mudbrick dream home that we have always desired and to live a modest self-sufficient lifestyle. My husband was born and raised in Drouin and only shifted to Melbourne for work. Now that our two children have left the nest we are in the middle of drawing up plans for our house and hope to start it on our block in early – mid 1994.

We would like to know if there are others in the general area who have similar interests, who might be interested in sharing their dreams with us. We are at present working in Tynong North, but will most likely shift to Drouin in 1994 and rent, whilst we build. We are 49 and 45 respectively and have two grown-up children.

John & Anne Batchelor
'Mill Valley Ranch', Tynong Nth Rd,
TYNONG NORTH 3813.

Dear GRs,

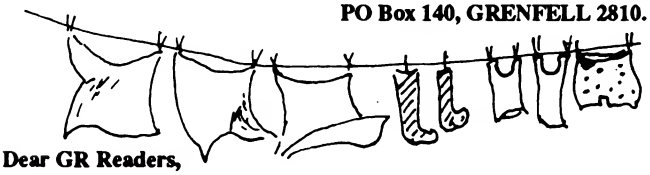
I am a Cancerian woman with an Aquarian son (4). I am offering my service as a **COOK** for part of the cold of winter. Ideally it would be a single mother who is living her truth (anyone with ulterior motives need not apply), preferably somewhere near rainforest and high above sea level. We are new to Tasmania and would like to feel warm and learn how to produce the warmth. My capacity as cook does not encompass housework, although children four and under seem to enjoy my energy particularly. I have a fantastic plan of fully vegetarian menus suited to winter consumption. Curious?

F C
PO Box 1464, LAUNCESTON 7250.

Dear GRs,

After searching high and low in country NSW I have not been able to gather any information on **FASTING.** Are there people who could advise me about long fasts, with stories of their own experiences? I have done short fasts (2 weeks) before and felt blissful, lost weight etc. Also, does anyone have the address of the **FRUITARIAN NETWORK** they could send me? All help and advice much appreciated.

Bronwen Westrip
PO Box 140, GRENFELL 2810.



Dear GR Readers,

To Keely and Hans, GR 91, my Nan and mother-in-law used to rinse the 'dirt' off **NAPPIES** under water, rubbing with a little scrubbing brush. They then boiled the nappies in a large copper with a little grated pure soap added (often homemade). The nappies were dunked in several changes of clean water until rinsed. A heavy stick was used to transfer the nappies from the boiling water to the rinsing water. The same stick was often used to thump errant children and dogs, so my husband says. Even after power was connected, my mother-in-law still washed her nappies this way. A dear old neighbour of ours used to boil her nappies the same way, but often threw in several chopped up lemons (if she had them), perhaps the earliest form of 'lemon-boosted laundry powder'! Apparently these tended to whiten the nappies. Another, sadly departed, dear neighbour added vinegar to the final rinse, leaving them to soak for a little while. It seems boiling and hanging the nappies in the sunshine and breeze wherever possible was disinfectant enough in the days before chlorine bleaches. I have used the boiling and vinegar method myself and find it quite acceptable. With my first child, I did all the right(?) things: Napisan, White King etc. She suffered atrocious nappy rash until I was set right by my old-fashioned neighbours. Now, four children later, my nappies may not be as white as some, but they are much friendlier all round.

As far as **SIDS** is concerned, all my children slept in bassinette and cot on tea-tree bark mattresses. I placed them on their side as tiny babies, and they tended to choose their own positions once they got a bit older. There seems to be a lot of controversy about SIDS; each year something new. Personally, I think it's out of our hands; parents can only do their best. Sleep the babies on their sides, breastfeed, plenty of fresh air, warm but not over-heated or too cold, most parents follow these 'guidelines' instinctively. It's a sad fact, but it's up to Mother Nature/God/who or whatever you wish to call it.

Keely and Hans, Nar Nar Goon isn't so bad. Often having a new baby opens a few doors. If you're always friendly, honest and don't appear 'too weird' (?) to the locals, you'll eventually be right with them. But... gravy without meat!! Unheard of!! Gravy is the very soul of meat! (You guessed it, I'm not a strict vegetarian!) Try the old white sauce with a bit of cheese or mustard or chopped onion and parsley. Maybe forget the cheese if you're very strict on animal products. Maybe a thin tomato-style sauce.

To all those with **SKIN TROUBLES,** here's another remedy (you may have had it before). Pick a large jar of St Johns Wort flowers and leaves. Pack them down and cover with good olive oil. Leave in a warm place, reversing the jar each day. After about 2-3 weeks it can be used. Rub a little of the oil over the rash. Marigold (calendula) flowers can also be added. I find this helps various types of dermatitis, also psoriasis, but funnily enough, St Johns Wort causes skin irritations in cattle, sheep and some people. You can only try it. Make sure the wort isn't sprayed and pull the whole plant out of your cattle paddocks.

To Mary and Gordon Fell, GR 91, about Mulberry Jam. A good recipe is in GR 82.

Also, S Laidlaw, GR 91, excuse my ignorance, but **WHAT IS A WICCAN?** Is it a religious sect, or a lifestyle, or is Wiccan a town just south of Upper Kumbucta West? Please, enlighten me, someone!

Finally, is there anyone I can get some good Rhode Island Red, or Buff Orpington or Indian Game chooks from, southside of Wodonga? Or any other heavy, dual purpose type chooks? I don't know much about chooks, but I'd like something that is 'value', that I can use for meat and eggs. Also, what is the chook that lays a blueish egg? So far, our chooks have been cast-offs from the local egg farm, not much chop for the pot, so to speak. I've just got a setting of mixed breed chooks and hope to build up a nice flock. Any suggestions, you chook lovers out there?

Thanks for the chance to read so many views and opinions in these pages. It's great to think so many diverse people can be linked together with a common interest – *Grass Roots.*

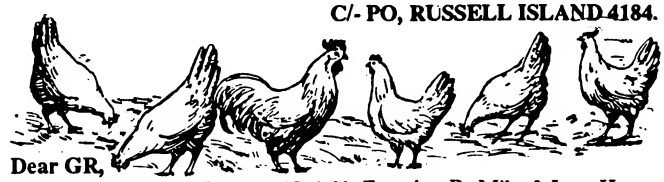
Kerry Cooper
CORAL BANK 3691.

The eggs with the blue (or green) shells come from the Araucana, a small, hardy and active breed, good layers of medium sized eggs.

Dear GR and Readers,

I have only recently begun reading GR after years of city living in Melbourne. Now my partner and I are happily thriving in Russell Island, Moreton Bay, QLD. I can't begin to tell you the treasure we have found in this island. Like many others we were aware of the land scandal that was, and still seems to be, linked with the name Russell Island. It took the effort to go there and see for ourselves to realise that it is in the past and the future is glorious. Where else can one have peaceful country island living so close to the city (Brisbane/Gold Coast)? There is bush all around and a playground of calm water for the fishing and boating enthusiasts. We love it here and wish to let all GR readers know of our secret. There's one small problem though, and that's **SANDFLIES.** We've tried a lot of different repellants to no avail. Any suggestions?

Toni Shepherd
C/- PO, RUSSELL ISLAND 4184.



Dear GR,

Has anyone a copy of *Practical Prickle Farming*, By Mike & Janet Hayes, that they don't use any more? If so I would love another copy as mine has worn out from overuse. Thank you all for past help.

Barbara Edensor
PMB 31, PT LINCOLN 5607.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

To Feedback,

I am writing because of what I perceive as an urgent need, and that urgent need is to let people know what a **CO-OPERATIVE** is, and what it means to be co-operative. In the past 8-10 years I have watched local co-operatives change structure, close and be taken over. I have seen co-operatives fold because of a lack of understanding about the difference between respect and invasion that has allowed people to exploit other people in co-operatives and to tell them how to run the co-ops. I have seen co-operatives become dollar and business orientated. I have just seen The Organic Fruit and Vegie Co-op close down and I have come under increased pressure to reduce my involvement in Friends of the Earth Co-op. I am concerned that without people passing on the knowledge of co-operatives, my food sources will disappear along with them.

I am a pensioner with a low income and I am unable to pay for books (if I could find a helpful bookshop!) and I am asking people if they can help by sending me any information they have about co-ops: where they are, who started them, contacts, how they started, what a co-op is, how to maintain a co-op, how to get the bad eggs out, the whole kit and caboodle. If you can help me in any way please send information to me. I will use it to distribute to people as much as I can.

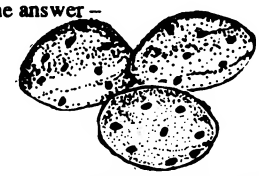
Darren Chapman
3/201 Rae St, NORTH FITZROY 3068.



Dear GR,

Being an urban conservationist, on a block surrounded by a variety of trees, **COMPOSTING LEAVES** was a bit of a problem. A friend gave us a clue. Now, leaves are scraped into low heaps, the lawn mower run over them, thus reducing the heaps to half size at least. Piled up in the back area with a few handfuls of lime, covered with a 'tarp' and watered well. It soon turns into compost. The worms love it, and trees in the surrounding area thoroughly enjoy the nutrients. That's after I have shovelled heaps onto an expanding vegie garden.

I noticed a request for an oatmeal biscuit. This isn't oatmeal, but the male members of my family, being ocean sailing types, needed something solid to chew on, particularly the first few days at sea. **HORRID LUMPS**, as they named them was the answer –



3 cups wholemeal plain flour
1 cup All-bran
½ cup raw sugar or honey
3 tsp butter or marg
3 tsp baking powder
½ cup raisins or dried fruit

Mix to a dough with about 1 cup milk. Place spoonfuls (slightly flattened) on tray. Bake about 20 min at 200° C.

One more little point, regarding 'cans', 'loos' etc. My son has a few fruit trees planted down on the flat, some distance away. Emptying the 'can' contents around the trees seems to discourage hungry nightlife from stripping leaves and fruit.

Audrey Taylor.
63 Gladstone St, NEWPORT 2106.

Dear Grass Roots,

I have been reading your magazine with great interest for the past year and a half, not only has it opened my eyes but made me appreciate my surroundings much more. I have started my vegie garden with the basics but have been unlucky three times with lettuce. My tomatoes and capsicums are thriving. I have some animals: dogs, a goat, ducks and chooks and a cow. I was hoping to put the cow in calf in the next year, while in the meantime I've been looking for a book with some recipes for cows' milk; apart from the basics. I have been unsuccessful so far. I would like to ask please if anyone could help me with either the name of a book or some recipes. I would fully appreciate it.

Megan Lloyd
PO Box 114, CORAKI 2471.

Dear GR,

My partner and I live in a one room, tin roofed cabin in the bush. It seems nothing fascinates the local **POSSUMS** more than to scamper across our roof in the dead of night. Luckily I am a sound sleeper and the noise doesn't waken me. What does waken me is said partner pacing round the cabin screaming abuse while thumping the ceiling at intervals with a heavy stick! I am developing whiplash from repeatedly flying bolt upright (eyes bulging) from the horizontal and a nervous tic when passing heavy sticks. Have other readers come across this problem and could they offer any advice? Yours in restless anticipation, anonymous GR subscriber.

Anonymous,
C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Dear GR,

I have picked up the recent issues of GR available here **IN PRISON** and I read a letter from Holly (GR 97) who understandably after being used by an inmate that would be regarded as a scumbag in here, now has the opinion we are all like him. Holly, I'm sorry you feel this way and I hope in time your heart can ease from the pain and allow you not to hate all those who have made mistakes in their lives. A reply from Chere (GR 100) said it all: don't hate, because he's a pathetic excuse for a human being, instead know in your mind he will never know true love or friendship because he holds no morals or values in his life.

I have several penpals and they all make my time in here much more bearable (thank you my friends), but who would I be to ask them to do things for me when in fact they only know me from behind a wall? Forget about him Holly and enjoy knowing that you can still do what you want.

Peter and Robin, I can't find your new address, please forward it again. If anyone else would care to write please do, age no limit, sex no preference, just friendly people who like putting pen to paper.

Steve Winston
PO Box 650, DARRA 4076.

Dear GR Readers,

Thank you for publishing my letter (GR 97) re the kits I have written for **HOME EDUCATORS**. The response has been very pleasing. I have prepared several topic kits, with many more in the pipeline, plus a kit for parents of 2-4 year olds. Any interested parents are very welcome to write to me for further details.

I am now living in the hills (Darling Range) and enjoying the cleaner, fresher air, birds, trees and geckos! I am the co-ordinator of two retirement villages here and have initiated a trial organic vegetable garden in tyres so that the residents can take just the fresh vegies they need and thus avoid unnecessary waste. The residents and I have learned so much from each other the last six months. I would like to hear details of **UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE** with which readers have had experiences, good and bad.

Pam Portman
4/74 Warlingham Dr, LESMURDIE 6076.

Dear GR Folks,

I would like to share my dream with you and hope there are people out there who wish to write with ideas or land that is available. Living in an **EARTH HOUSE** built from recycled tyres, drink cans and some timber totals off the grid – no more bills to pay, 12 volt power from wind or the sun or both. I have the contacts and plans from Taos, New Mexico, USA. I have videos and books with plans to start right away.

I wish to share this with some like-minded people working together and helping to heal the planet. Sharing and caring for their fellow man/woman and child. Growing our own organic food, running our own chooks, ducks and geese etc, and members wishing to establish environmentally friendly business and craft workshops. It's not my intention to drop out of the system altogether, but I want to be able to share this knowledge with others who might want to do likewise. If you are aware of 100 hectares or so of north-facing land with natural abundant water supply, if you are the owner of such land and wish to work out something to help us establish such a community, I would like to hear from you.

The earthship concept originated from Taos, New Mexico, where four communities have been established so far. All types of skills would be welcome in this type of community and all are welcome: families, singles, single mums, single dads, meditators, healers, artists, dancers, singers and lovers of life, whatever you think you can contribute.

Digant,
224 Serpentine Rd, ALBANY, 6330.
Ph: 098-414-871.

Feedback Link-Up Feedback

To the Editor,

In July ('94) my daughter (6) and I (female 32) will be moving to **SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND** and would desperately love to hear from anyone who lives in the district or who is thinking of moving there, and wishes to either board or share with us. I am studying national park management by correspondence and will be furthering my correspondence studies through university next year. I need to make contact with any GR reader who can live the quiet life, but still be able to have fun. I would dearly love to make contact with any GR who would also like to become part of our lives (not romantically). You would have to love our environment and everything it stands for. I'm not looking for any way-out types, just someone who would like to live a harmonious lifestyle. I enjoy bushwalking, roller-skating, drawing, diving, swimming, ceramics and travelling. If you believe that you would live with me and my daughter, please write and let's get acquainted.

Cindy-Leigh Cruickshank,
61 Hayes Street, BUNBURY 6230.

Dear Grass Roots Magazine,

I have recently decided to develop my own alternative to the teaching vocation I've been trapped in for years. In my new gallery, I am looking for good quality artisan works to display. If you are a well known or an undiscovered artist of drawings, paintings, prints, pottery, ceramics, glassware, weavings, sculpture, jewellery, greeting cards, mobiles, dried arrangements, kids' clothing, (anything creative), and would like to **MARKET YOUR WORK**, then I would like to hear from you.

Michael Brown,
PO Box 223, DRYSDALE 3222.
Ph: 052-532-232.

Dear GR Friends,

Does anyone know if **LAMINATED CUPBOARDS** can be painted successfully? If so, what paint do you use – water based (or does the water base cause the laminate to lift) or oil-based (or does the oil-turps base dissolve the laminate fixative, again resulting in lifting of the laminate)? I'd appreciate advice from anyone with direct experience.

Also, are there any other GR folk out there who, like me, are suddenly single again in their mid-40s and a bit bemused by it all? Having spent the last 17 years or so caring for a progressively invalid spouse there's now just me – and it's taking a bit of getting used to. I find too that, unrealised until now, my circle of friends has diminished over the years to a few dearly-loved stalwarts – the others having gradually drifted away as my spouse's care increasingly pre-occupied us and his disabilities precluded us from many former activities. I'd really like to enlarge my circle of friends again and begin to enjoy a normal life once more. So, if there are any GR readers of similar age, perhaps of similar experience, who'd like to write, I'd love to hear from you! I'm a slightly eccentric suburban dweller who has rural connections, GR values and a broad, eclectic range of interests and skills.

Libby GR 103,
C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Dear Readers,

Could any reader kindly supply me with a recipe for the old-fashioned nourishing **MILK ICE BLOCKS?** These contained fruit and had a delightfully flaky texture.

Mrs L J Errington,
11/73 Hawdon St, HEIDELBERG 3084.

Dear GRs,

I am a newcomer to this great magazine and I was wondering if any readers could help me in bringing back wild birds into our backyard. We had our 'dream home' built in a fairly new suburb where it was full of wattle trees. There were no trees on our block but there were quite a few on the empty block behind us.

When we moved in, I was amazed (being a city slicker) at the many birds that came in to our (very tiny) backyard to find food and take a drink from our leaky tap. It was very pleasant to hear these birds sing first thing in the morning. So from then on, each day after work, I would leave a tray of water and feed them bread. All was going well until about four months ago, when the block behind us that had all these big wattle trees was cleared by half. There are some wattle trees remaining and I occasionally hear one or two birds sing, but I've had no more visits.

Could any readers advise me on how to **ATTRACT OUR BEAUTIFUL BIRDS BACK.** I am planning to (try and) build on my own a birdhouse from some scrap wood we have and to put some water and food out for them, but would they be attracted to the birdhouse? Unfortunately we don't have any trees in our block, but I am working on it, to try and grow tall trees for them.

The types of birds I have seen were doves, crows, magpies and the black 'n' white ones which wag their tails. Excuse my ignorance, but as I mentioned before I came from 'The Big Smoke' and had never before seen all these birds, together, feeding in 'our' backyard.

I got quite a lot of enjoyment watching them eat, drink and even bathe so close to us, and I miss all that. Please help.

Mrs Trish Parker,
PO Box 194, GERALDTON 6530.

Dear GR Readers,

I have been an avid reader of this magazine for some time now. The copies that I missed out on buying I have caught up with through reading in our local library.

There are a number of things that I would like to know from readers. Firstly, my husband and I intend to build our **MUD BRICK OR RAMMED EARTH** house very soon. We would be grateful to hear from any readers about these subjects, starting from the beginning to completion of house. Also, as we are close to the ocean and in a cyclone area, does this have any effect on the construction of the house? Would mud brick or rammed earth be better for this district?

Secondly, I would love to hear from distributors/wholesalers about their natural **ORGANIC AND BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS.** I am interested in opening a shop in the area and would like to sell everything including food wraps, herb oils, natural shampoos, soaps, fragrances, dishwashing liquids, fruit and veg, orange juice – etc. This means I would be a little supermarket, selling absolutely everything, from A to Z, produced naturally. Therefore, I would like to hear from all wholesalers about their products for retail sale, and prices and transportation too. Pamphlets from all organisations and clubs are welcome too, to be placed on counter or advertised in shop. Also publishers, I would like booklists of your books in relation to my interests. Hoping to hear from many people regarding this matter.

Mrs K Britton,
PO Box 99, BOWEN 4805.

Dear GRs,

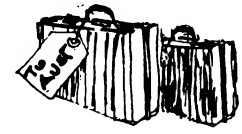
Your articles against immunisation have been great, they have helped give me the faith to know I've made the right decision with my three boys. My two youngest have just recovered from whooping cough which can be fatal. Needles are no guarantee they won't get it. I'm proud that I have not injected them with something that you have to sign for so they don't end up in court. Also my six year old has numerous allergies and the needles could have been fatal. Thank you all you hard workers.

Julie Reynold,
Lot 143 Homeleigh Rd, Via KYOGLE 2474.

Dear Friends,

My family, (Dave, my partner, and Sam, my 4 year old son) and I are hoping to come out to **MALENY, QUEENSLAND,** so that I can do the Natural Vision Improvement teacher training at Crystal Waters Permaculture Village with Janet Goodrich. The course, I believe, will run from the end of February to the end of April 1995, with a week's break somewhere in the middle.

I am writing in the hope that we can make contact with people in the area, who might be able to give us some 'local colour', so that we can make the most of our trip, and whom we could visit when we get out there. It would also be great to have some advice as to what we should bring for that time of year and if anyone could let us know whether there are any practising homoeopaths in the area.



Nicky Edge,
87 St Mary's Park,
Collaton St. Mary,
Paignton, Devon,
TQ4 7DA, ENGLAND.

Kids Pages





BUTTERFLY CHASE



In many parts of Australia caterpillars are hibernating in their chrysalises ready to emerge as butterflies in spring.

To brighten up a winter garden, make paper butterflies to hide amongst the flowers and trees. Colour bright patterns with crayons or texta or cut and paste coloured paper or fabric. (See *Flutter by, Butterfly*, or other butterfly books for the patterns and colours). Afterwards, have a 'butterfly chase' and collect the butterflies to hang up in your bedroom.





BLOSSOM THE CLYDESDALE

by Joel Quigley, Kialla West, Vic.

Hi, my name is Joel. I would like to tell you about my horse, Blossom. She is a Clydesdale and very big and strong. She is brown with a black mane, white nose and white feathers on her feet.

She used to live in the Strathbogie Ranges, near Euroa, Victoria, and was used to pull logs from the forests. Now she lives at our strawberry farm and lots of people come to see her when they come to pick strawberries or have lunch in our restaurant.

We think Blossom must be bored with nothing to do all day. If someone has harness and a cart to lend, Blossom could give rides to children who visit our farm. Anybody can visit her and say hello to Blossom. She is the biggest horse I've ever seen.

We would like to hear about other animals that are special pets or work on farms. Please write to us about your animal and send it with a photo to: Kids Pages, Grass Roots, PO Box 242, Euroa, 3666.

HOW ANIMALS SURVIVE WINTER

In the cooler areas of Australia during winter we can light our fires, switch on our heaters, wear warm clothes and spend a lot of time indoors, but how do animals survive the cold?

Some species of birds which don't like the cold fly away to a warmer climate. Watch the birds in your garden, you may not see some of your frequent spring and summer visitors. On the other hand, you may see some that only visit during the winter.

Many insects and small mammals hibernate. They sleep through the cold weather, often in burrows underground. In autumn caterpillars spin cocoons. Not only do they keep safe and dry in their snug covering, but they are also slowly changing into their adult form of moth.

Bees in hives must use up their stored honey as there are few flowers left for them to collect nectar from. Inside the hive the bees form a tight cluster to keep warm. As the temperature drops the bees draw closer together to conserve heat.

Ants and other insects find a dry place in which to nest over winter. If there is a lot of rain and their nests are flooded you may find ants in your house looking for food and a dry home.

Many larger animals grow a thick winter coat to keep them warm in winter. You may have noticed this on your pet dog.

Farm animals will need a barn or sheltered area provided to protect them from chilling winds, rain or snow. It's especially important for sheep to have some protection from the weather if they are shorn in winter. In many countries of the world, where the winters are much colder than they are in Australia, farm animals are kept in barns and hand-fed all through winter.



Joel and Blossom at Belstack Strawberry Farm.

DRAUGHT STOPPER

It always happens! You are sitting in a warm room reading a good book, or watching television, when a cold draught seems to creep in under one of the doors. Take time to make this draught stopper, it not only works, but it's fun to look at.

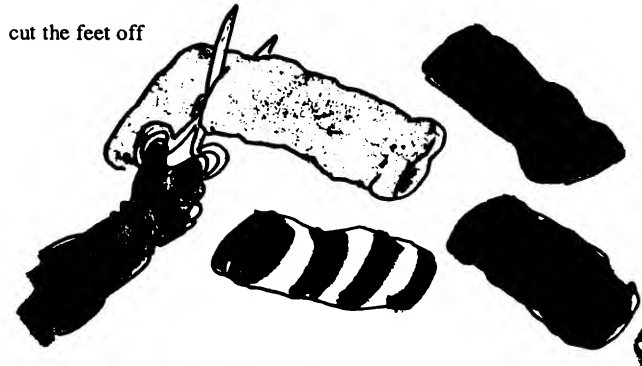
You will need:

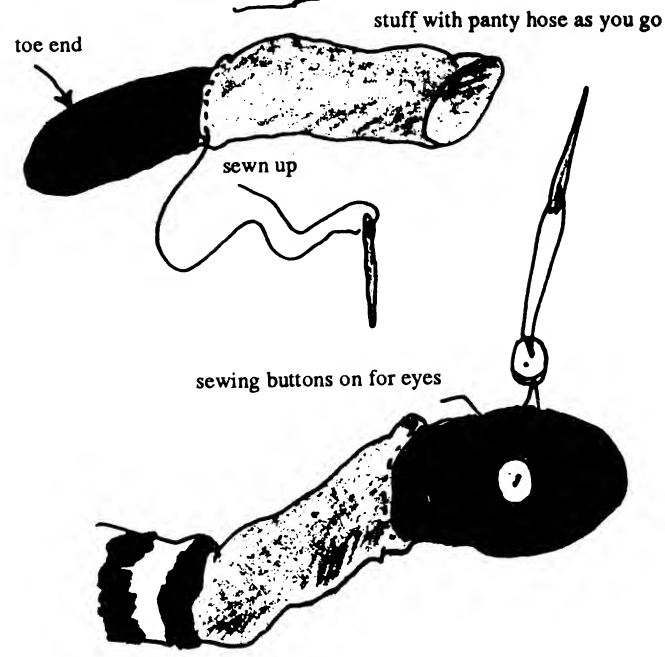
- 5 pairs of worn out socks
- old pantyhose
- coloured wools
- darning needle

What to do:

Save all the worn-out socks and laddered pantyhose during summer months. The brighter the socks the better.

Cut off all the feet of the socks, saving the best two. Stuff one of these toe ends with pantyhose, packing in firmly, then sew on a sock leg using the darning needle and wool. Now stuff that, and so on until the draught stopper is the required length then finish it off with the second toe end.





Sew on two buttons as eyes and you've turned your draught stopper into a snake!

If you are looking for other ideas with snakes, the Kids Pages of GRs 91 and 69 have different snakes to knit, using scraps of wool.

Reprinted from *Winter Fun Book*, by Anne Ingram and Peggy O'Donnell, published by Elsyd Press, RRP $6.95.

COOKERY CORNER

Have a soup party – your friends can help with all the vegetable chopping and then enjoy the soup with crusty bread for tea. You can use any vegetables that you have, adding to the ones listed. Try turnip, tomato, artichoke, beans, peas, silver-beet, cauliflower, leek, corn or beetroot!

WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP

1 onion
1 carrot
2 stalks celery
1 potato
1 parsnip
1 capsicum
1 cup pumpkin chunks
1 cup mixed lentils and barley
or
1 cup noodle shapes – alphabet or dinosaurs
1 litre water
2 teaspoons miso (soybean paste)

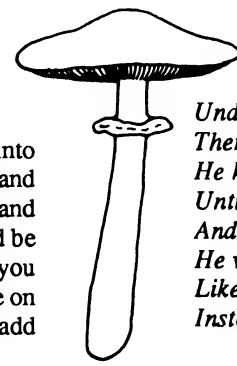
Start in the morning. Peel and cut all the vegetables into small pieces. Put these into a crockpot, add the lentils and barley or noodles and the water. Put the lid on the crockpot and cook on low all day. Stir once every hour. The soup should be ready to serve for tea. Add the miso just before serving. If you don't have a crockpot, cook in a large soup pot on the stove on a low heat until the vegetables are soft. You may need to add more water.

BOOK REVIEW

Flutter by, Butterfly, by Densey Clyne.

Have you ever seen a Purple Moonbeam, met a Painted Lady or a Tailed Emperor, or come face to face with a Blue Tiger? Densey Clyne has and it's possible that you have too, because they are all butterflies – the exotic beauties of the insect world. Through *Flutter by, Butterfly*, you can learn all about the lives they live from egg to hungry caterpillar, pupa to brilliant butterfly and Densey's amazing photographs capture every detail. Her other books in this series include *Cicada Sing-Song*, *Catch Me If You Can* and *Plants of Prey*.

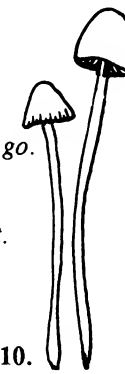
Published by Little Ark, Allen and Unwin, RRP $9.95.



A TOADSTOOL

Under a toadstool covered in snow,
There was a poor elf with nowhere to go.
He kept walking and walking
Until he fell fast,
And all of a sudden he was in the past.
He was no longer cold
Like he was before,
Instead he was cosy and warm.

Nicci Williams, aged 10.

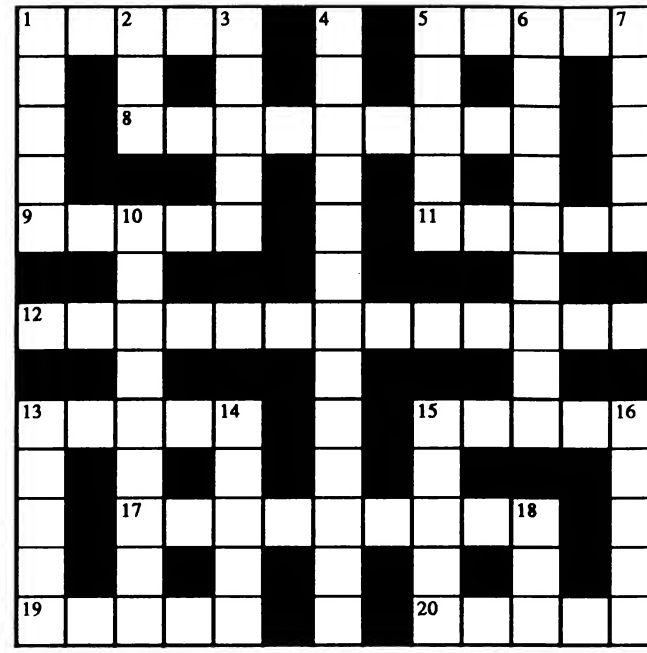


CRYPTIC GRASSWORD

By M. Riley, Tanjil South, Vic.

Across
1. Overlaps usually (5).
5. Not taken out for lunch (5).
8. Cold snap (9).
9. The lady is out of order (5).
11. Apparently they need nobody (5).
12. Counter revolution is turning back the time (13).
13. Could be worth changing cast (5).
15. This drink is a hit (5).
17. Known instinctively in teaching (9).
19. Initially prisoner-of-war and the Queen might (5).
20. Sentry covers in this way (5).

Down
1. Whereabouts contested (5).
2. Far up initially they fly in the face of hostility (3).
3. Son OK for corners (5).
4. Good going (13).
5. Notices in the smaller branches (5).
6. Makes one lifeless performance (9).
7. Warms up for the races (5).
10. To bury opinion at meeting (9).
13. Best suit to pack (5).
14. Definitely notice when this liquid is warm (5).
15. Open up a ward (5).
16. Strong poet (5).
18. Catch back number (3).



Solution on page 66.

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While the Billy Boils

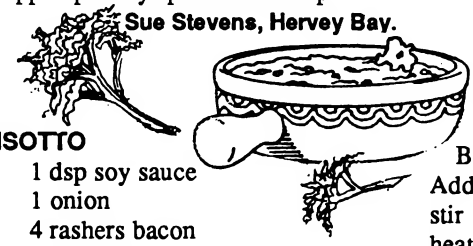
One of the nicest aspects of wintery weather is that cosy feeling created by the warm kitchen and the tantalising cooking aromas emanating therefrom. This is the time to enjoy cooking (and eating) hot soups and hearty winter fare. Fritters, pancakes and dumplings may be regarded as 'stodge' (and their too enthusiastic consumption can lead to extra kilos), but somehow it is what most of us in the cool winter areas need and find most satisfying (on more than the physical level) at this time of year. Have a hearty winter.

PUMPKIN AND TOFU SOUP

2 tbsp olive oil
2 onions
1 kg pumpkin
750 ml water or vegie stock
1 dsp miso
1 cup tofu
2 cloves garlic
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1 tbsp chopped parsley

Finely chop onion, dice pumpkin, crush garlic, dice tofu. In a large saucepan lightly cook onion and garlic in the olive oil. Add pumpkin and cook for five minute, stirring constantly. Add the liquid and nutmeg, bring to boil and simmer till pumpkin is cooked. Mix miso with 1/4 cup of the hot soup and add to the remainder. Remove from heat and blend or puree. Add tofu and return to heat until liquid comes to the boil. Serve with chopped parsley sprinkled on top.

Sue Stevens, Hervey Bay.



RISOTTO

1 dsp soy sauce
1 onion
4 rashers bacon
1 cup rice
1/4 cup parmesan cheese
30g butter
2 cups water
1/3-1/2 cup each of chopped vegetables: capsicum, beans, peas, corn, zucchini, eggplant, mushrooms, carrots, tomato –as many and what ever you've got.

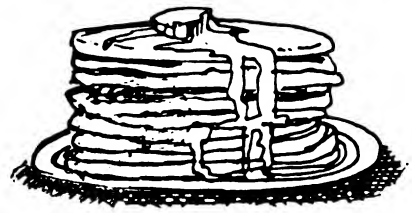
Finely dice onion and slice bacon. Melt butter and cook bacon and onion until onion is soft. Add rice and cook 2 minutes over moderate heat. Add 2 cups water and soy sauce and bring to boil. Simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add vegies and mix well. Continue cooking until all water is absorbed, and rice and vegetables cooked (you may need a little more water during cooking). Season to taste, add parmesan cheese and serve.

Liz Zylinski, Newham.

SCONE DUMPLINGS

If you are short of potatoes, make up stew (chops, vegies etc). Halfway through cooking, make up a basic scone recipe, (see GR 91, p 52) add spoonfuls to top of stew, leave sitting on top, cook. Serve with stew as you would potatoes.

Susan White, York.



BREAKFAST PANCAKES – AMERICAN STYLE

2 cups plain yoghurt
3 large eggs
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup honey or sugar
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
3/4 tsp baking soda
2 cups wholemeal flour
optional: 1 cup chopped fruit or corn kernels.

Blend yoghurt, eggs, oil and honey. Add flour, soda and baking powder and stir in well. Cook on lightly greased, heated frypan, each side until golden. This is a large recipe, makes about 12 medium sized (very filling) pancakes. Makes nice pikelets too! Serve warm with your favourite topping – butter, maple syrup, honey or lemon and sugar.

A & S Earle, Nowra Hill.

GRILLED TOFU WITH GRAVY



750g tofu
soy sauce
1 1/3 cups water
4 tbsp tahini
3 heaped tsp miso
10-12 slices wholemeal bread
butter or margarine

Cut the tofu into slices about 1 cm thick. Place the slices on grill pan and brush the tops with a little soy sauce. Grill under medium heat for a few minutes. Turn the slices over, brush with a little more soy sauce, and grill the other side. Meanwhile, bring the water to the boil. Put the tahini and Miso into a liquidiser, add the water, and blend. Pour this sauce into a pan, bring to the boil over a low heat, simmer for 1-2 minutes, then leave to rest for 2-3 minutes. Toast bread, spread with butter and top with gravy.

Gaelle Murray, Pialba.

CORN AND MUSHROOM FRITTERS

approx 300 ml milk
3 eggs
225 g wholemeal SR flour
1 1/2 cups corn kernels
125 g mushrooms
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
freshly ground black pepper
1/2 tsp dried crushed basil
olive oil

Chop mushrooms. Separate eggs. Sift nutmeg and flour into a bowl. Add corn and mushrooms and mix well. Beat milk and egg yolks together. Beat egg whites until stiff. Briskly stir yolk and milk mixture into flour/corn/mushroom mixture, adding pepper and basil. Fold in beaten egg whites. Drop dessertspoons of batter into hot olive oil, turn when golden. More milk might be needed if mixture is too thick.



SOUTH AFRICAN PUMPKIN FRITTERS (Dessert)

2 cups (500g) cooked pumpkin
3/4 cup 75g flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 eggs
pinch of salt, optional
olive oil
sugar
ground cinnamom
lemon wedges

Squeeze as much liquid from the pumpkin as possible then mash the cooked flesh with the flour and baking powder. Work in the well beaten eggs and salt to make a soft mixture. Fry in large spoonfuls in olive oil in a frypan. Cook both sides and serve hot sprinkled thickly with sugar, cinnamom and lemon wedges.

Colin Franklin, Ballarat.

Fungi for the Table

By Colline Muir, Vic.

Fungi were, until recently, classified within the plant kingdom, but now they are recognised as separate from the plants and are given a kingdom of their own. Many fungi raise their fruiting bodies above ground to facilitate the spreading of their spores by wind, rain, or invertebrates such as flies, slugs and slaters. It used to be thought that mushrooms contained little in the way of nutrients for humans. It is now recognised that they are rich in protein.

EDIBLE VARIETIES

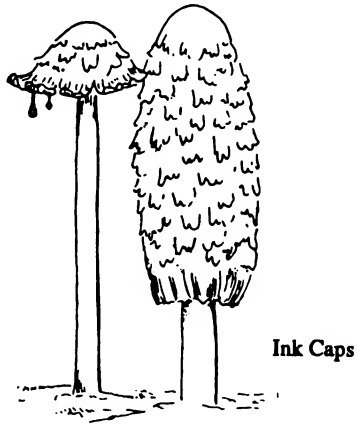
In common with the flies and slugs, we find some fungus species palatable. Foremost amongst these of course is the common field mushroom (actually a number of closely allied species), the cultivated mushroom and the horse mushroom, which is white and may grow to the size of a dinner plate.

In recent years we have become more aware of the yellow staining mushroom which, in our district at least, has become common in nature strips and parks. It has a white cap and stem, white to fawn gills, and a slightly unpleasant odour of iodoform. It turns yellow when bruised. Although some people are able to eat this mushroom with impunity, others become extremely ill.

Less Common Species

Some less known species are delicious to eat and are regarded as delicacies in Europe.

Saffron milky caps, orange and slightly funnel shaped, look startling beneath pine trees, where they often grow following their introduction into Australia some years ago. Young specimens, cooked upside down in butter, the hollow stems filled with lemon juice, are delicious, especially when accompanying a rich casserole. The 'milk' is bright orange.



Ink Caps

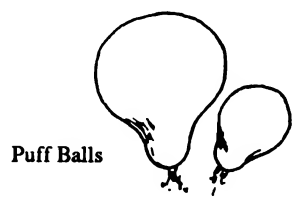
Inky shaggy caps look like miniature umbrellas, with soft, scaly caps. They must be gathered while the gills are still white and cooked soon after picking. As they age, an autodigestive enzyme starts working from the edge inwards, turning the cap into a black, inky fluid. This fluid, containing the spores, drips into the soil where new individuals develop. As the gills darken, they are no longer edible. Young caps and stems are delicious cooked in butter and lemon juice, or added to a white sauce. They have a delicate flavour and texture.

The parasol toadstool is held on a long, slender white stem. The cap opens flat and bears white gills. The top of the cap is pale with brown flecks, especially near the domed centre. It is delicately flavoured.

Beech fungus, or beech orange, occurs in cluster of small, rounded, pitted fruiting bodies on the branches of beech trees. They are edible but lack flavour. They may be added to a bush stew if gathered when camping. Darwin observed a similar species in Tierra del Fuego, where the local people ate it raw with fish.

Botetus is the large, brown, slimy toadstool that grows under pine trees. It has yellow pores instead of gills, and stains blue when bruised. I have not tried this one myself, but those who have are enthusiastic about it. Some botetus species are poisonous.

Puffballs are excellent when young, before the white flesh darkens, indicating that the spores are starting to ripen. They may be sliced and cooked in a little butter. The flavour is a little bland, so they may be added to field mushrooms to extend one's harvest.



Puff Balls

Truffles have been recorded in Australia, but are extremely rare.

The Chinese are masters of the culinary possibilities of fungi. Some of these can be bought here either fresh or dried; they include Chinese dried mushrooms, cloud ear fungus, straw mushrooms and black fungus, each adding its own distinctive flavour and texture to enhance dishes of fish, meat, vegetables and soup.

The 'Jew's ear' group of gelatinous fungi (to which black fungus belongs) are edible, but not always eatworthy.

NONEDIBLE VARIETIES

Some fungi produce toxins that may be fatal to humans, such as the *Amanita phalloides*, the death cap, reputed to have been used to poison the Emperor Claudius. A convenient poison, it operates slowly on the liver, death occurring some time after consumption. There is no antidote. This fungus fortunately does not occur in Australia.

The fly agaric, *Amanita muscaria*, with its white-spotted red cap, is hallucinogenic and, in large doses, possibly fatal. Whole books could be written about the uses (and abuses) and folklore of this fungus, and probably have. The fly agaric on toast for breakfast is *not* recommended.

It is not possible to tell by the colour, smell or shape whether a toadstool is poisonous, nor by the 'silver spoon' method or any other such test. The only sure ways to know are by positive identification and experimentation. As the latter could have serious and unpleasant consequences, it is best left to the well informed.

DELICIOUS FARE

Braised Mushrooms with Garlic

4 tbsp olive oil
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
5 cups sliced mushrooms
1/2 tsp chopped fresh mint or 1 tsp basil
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste.

Heat the oil in a large pan, then add the garlic. Fry gently for five minutes. Add all the remaining ingredients, cover the pan and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.

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TROPICAL TOPICS
VEGETABLE GROWING IN THE WET TROPICS

PART 2

By Susan Hands, Innisfail, Qld.



Last issue I discussed growing a winter-spring vegie garden in the wet tropics. In this issue I would like to tell you a little about the 'other' vegetables, the ones that will grow through the hottest months of the year or just generally throughout the year.

MYTHS

Most major seed companies have a map of Australia on the back of their seed packs. This map broadly depicts what can be planted where. As a result people moving from the southern areas of Australia to the tropics are given the impression that most vegetables can be grown up here all year round. This is not necessarily the case and the problem with the above-mentioned seed planting guide is that it takes into account 'cold' but not 'heat'.

To give an example: On the back of a packet of tomato seeds a shaded area indicates that the tomato can be planted in the tropics at any time of the year. This is true and generally the plant will grow, but it will not produce tomatoes during the hot summer months. For the fruit to set the temperature must fall below 22°C during the night. In reality this does not happen so the tomato does not set, hence no tomatoes.

With other winter-spring vegetables the heat causes 'bolting'; that is, the plant does not produce good leaves but runs straight to seed. The few leaves that are produced are bitter and inedible.

Some new chums try planting under shadecloth but this is not successful as it is the air temperature not the direct sun that causes the above problems.

HOT MONTHS' VEGIES

Beans

Long beans, or Climbing Snake Beans, are the summer staple of tropical areas as far as greens are concerned. They are prolific producers. They will also grow during the winter months but do not produce the quantity or grow to the full size of their summer growth. Another plus for long beans is that they are not subject to bean fly as are the winter beans. Take it from me, long beans lightly boiled, tossed in garlic and oil and topped with parmesan cheese makes a dish for a king.

Capsicum

Both chillies and capsicums are perennials in the tropics. Chillies self-seed everywhere. Capsicums produce better fruit when only five or six fruit are allowed to grow at any one time on the bush. Also with capsicums, the stems thicken if the bush is pruned regularly for the first six months. Much of the crop has to be sacrificed but it's worth it for the future of the bush, thick stems make strong bushes. Unfortunately, the fruit of the capsicum is subject to fruit fly – the 'pest of the tropics'.

Cassava

The root of this plant is harvested, generally as needed. Individual roots can be pulled without excavating the whole plant. It is a very starchy food used in much the same way as potato. Personally, if I'm short of room I prefer to grow sweet potato as it is far more useful and economical.

Choko

The choko, along with the pumpkin, kept many a wolf from the door in the early pioneering days. When you can get a choko vine to grow, boy oh boy does it grow. As a vine it's absolutely great for disguising old iron on the chook shed.

Chokos are best eaten when young. They are a great vegetable in stews and other similar dishes and can also be cooked with a jam (of your choice) for a great dessert. If the chokos get too old throw them in to the chooks.

Corn

Corn is an annual. It is probably best planted during winter, but if your garden

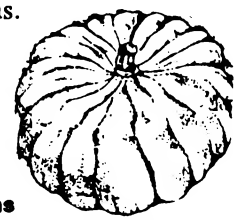
is already full to bursting, corn can be planted during the hotter months. Corn's biggest pest are grubs that climb down into the growing cobs. If some sort of inhibitant, such as oil soaked in penny-royal, is rubbed into the 'hair' this seems to stop the grubs from moving down into the cobs.

Eggplant

Like its relative the tomato, eggplant is subject to wilt. A lot of gardeners in our district graft the plant onto devil's fig to avoid wilt. This is very successful and the bush will keep producing for years. The fruit of the eggplant can be subject to borer attack, but as they do not tend to turn the fruit rotten all you need do is cut out the piece of fruit that holds the borer and burn or otherwise destroy the borer.

Ginger

A plant you either like or loathe, it is harvested in winter after the leaves die down and planted again as soon as the root shows signs of growing a green tip. Edible ginger is not to be confused with the wild ginger that grows everywhere up here and was often used to disguise the outside dunny. The roots of the wild gingers (and there are heaps of them) are not as pungent as the cultivated variety and some of the wild varieties can be poisonous.



Pumpkins

No tropical garden is complete without its pumpkin vine. All the old photographs of tropical Queensland show a house with two coconut trees in the front yard and a pumpkin vine peeping out from the back.

The hot weather of December – January slows down fruit production, but, if it's raining, the vine itself still keeps growing and growing.

A pumpkin vine can last up to nine months (I know some say longer. Some say it was a pumpkin vine that covered Rip Van Winkle. Some, especially non-gardening neighbours, say lots of things about pumpkin vines, most of them unprintable). Usually when one vine dies a good gardener has another ready on the go, which is why the vine might appear to be 'the vine that walks, plant that never dies'.

The fruit of the pumpkin can be stored in a cool dry place and, providing the stalk is intact, will last for months.

Melons

Watermelons, rockmelons and others can be planted and grown for most of the year, but I have to confess they are better in the drier months for they are very susceptible to mildew and grubs.

Rosella

This is a member of the hibiscus family. It's best grown as an annual and produces well during the hotter months. It's great for making jams, jellies, chutneys, puddings, drinks. And it's a great self-seeder.

Sweet Potato

A good garden can produce a family's complete potato requirements for most of the year with sweet potato. As a matter of fact with pumpkin, sweet potato and long beans you've got it made for the long summer months.

Sweet potatoes do have a problem with black borers. I have found the most successful way to grow the crop is by regular rotation of the bed. Generally I keep my sweet potatoes separate from the main winter-spring garden.



Taro

As with cassava, you eat the root. I think they are fantastic in stir-fry but unless you live on a swamp or have the water available every day, forget it. The tubers just shrivel up.

Passionfruit and Granadilla

I know I said this article was to be on vegetables but I thought to end off I'd mention passionfruit and granadilla both of which are perennial vines.

Passionfruit are great on a side fence – providing there are no horses or cows in the next paddock – and they make a wonderful drink or extra ingredient in fruit salad.

Granadillas are a lot more touchy, the vine will grow but sometimes it seems to need a miracle to fruit – and then the fruit fly will sting the fruit. The old tank stand was the place to grow your granadilla, but nowadays you'll probably need to build a special trellis.

Both passionfruit and granadilla can be pollinated with a feather wiped across the flower, best done as soon as the flower opens in the morning. When I have been unable to find a feather I have used the cat's tail – with the cat attached of course.

Once the granadilla flower 'takes', a brown paper bag can be attached over the forming fruit. This is the best method of keeping it safe from fruit fly.

Mother's Granadilla Pie

Take one granadilla, scoop out seeds, cut the white flesh into bite-size pieces and place in the bottom of a heatproof dish. Make a batter of one cup self-raising flour, half a cup of sugar, two dessert-spoons margarine, one egg, and enough milk or water to form the batter. Place batter on top of granadilla flesh, sprinkle with a little sugar if desired. Pour on a cup of boiling water and bake in a moderate oven for twenty minutes. This can be eaten with the seeds as a side dish – finger lickin' good.

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DIY FOWL HOUSING

By Alan Stewart, Alexander Hills, Qld.

A matter which puzzles me is the lack of commercially available hen houses. Being a greenie and a reader of many relevant magazines, I have noticed there are no advertisements for fowl pens in these magazines, so whilst in the UK a couple of years ago I wrote off for brochures, obviously some of these are unsuitable for our climate but one or two, such as the ones I have tried, are. For most families nowadays two or three hens are quite sufficient, and many gardens could accommodate one or the other of the following designs and be moved on a daily basis onto fresh grass.

Another aspect of this concerns the opportunities for local employment in making fowl pens of various types. If there is a market for these things in the UK, why not here?

The designs of the following hen houses were adapted from those on the brochures I received from the UK. I had no trouble in building these pens from the pictures on the brochures, so home handypersons should be able to use my photos as a guide.

HEN-PEN

My hen-pen cost a total of $35.50. All of the material, with the exception of wood adhesive, bolts, a few screws and a pair of hinges, has come from the tip. I should mention the tip is privately owned otherwise I would not have been allowed near it. I built the hen-pen to show what can be done from material that would have been used as landfill, also for a pensioner relative who wanted to keep chooks.

The pen has a droppings tray, ventilated roof and perch area, also an insulated nest box, the disappointment has been the weight; it was meant to be lifted onto fresh pasture every day but the commercial grade versalux proved rather heavy. It can be rolled fairly easily on plastic pipes, but it is heavy.

The main frame was made entirely with hand tools and most handypersons would have little trouble with the X, L and T halve-joints, I am not a carpenter, just a retired postie.

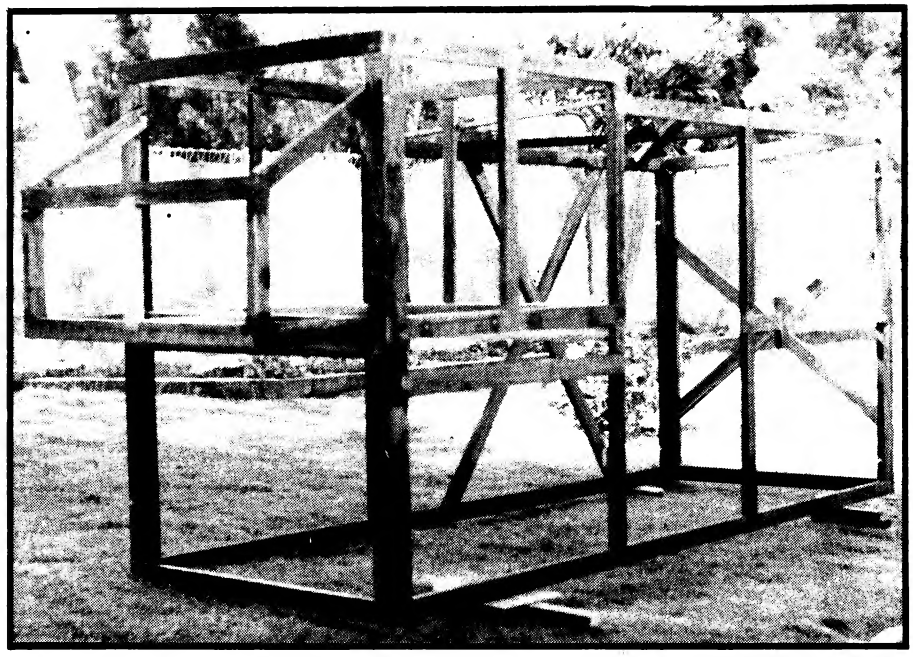
It would only be fair to point out that paint is the major cost problem with the projects I have made. You can find almost everything at the tip but I have never ever found any paint. In this case I did a round-up of friends and relatives and obtained remnants and leftovers of decorating jobs, mixed it all up and ended up with a pleasing olive colour.

The modern tragedy in all this is, with the exception of the roof, all the wood and versalux, plywood, insulation obtained from the tip is new: offcuts and unwanted materials that normally would be bulldozed into landfill. I am sure you would be dismayed at the tonnes of useful material lost every day should you spend a while at any tip in Australia.

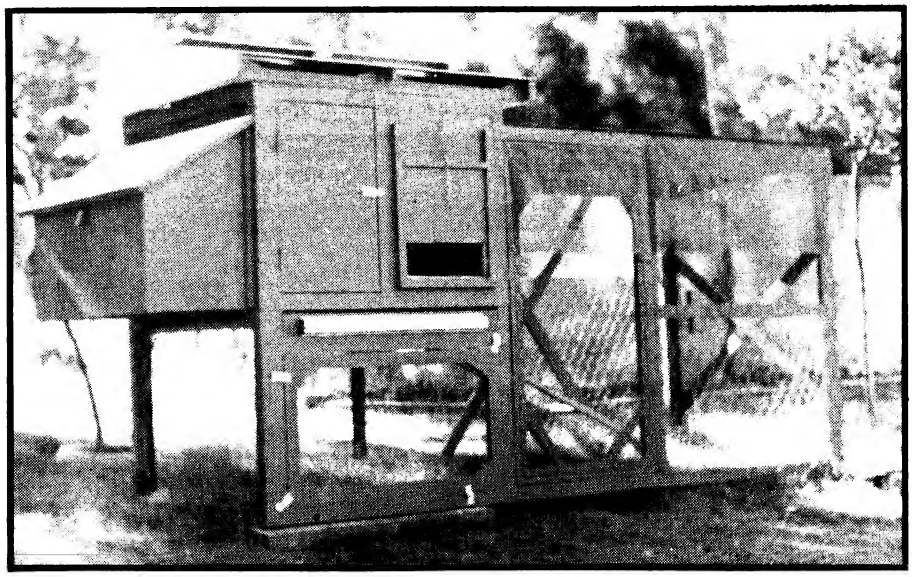
Any support the magazine and readers could bring to persuade local councils to release this material would be a big boost to genuine recycling, save on landfill space and be a big help to folk having a hard time in the present economic circumstances.

HALF PENTHOUSE

The second style, which I call the half penthouse, has had very favourable comments from friends and neighbours. They think it's a neat and good looking chook pen. It is very sturdy and rigid and should give years of service. I made it with a ventilated roof which I feel is necessary for Queensland's humid summers, and a



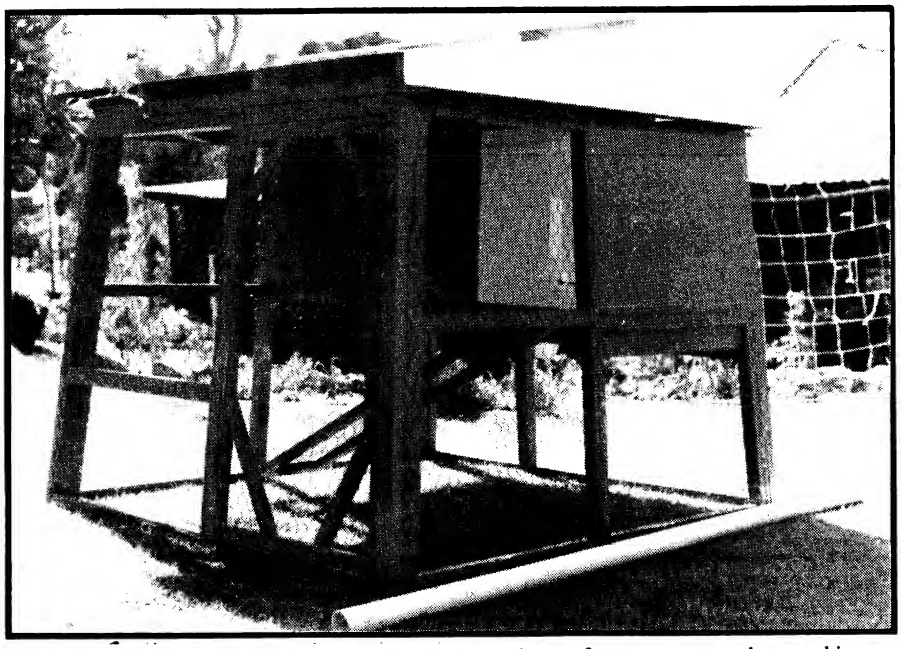
Above: The hen-pen under construction, framing was all built with hand tools.



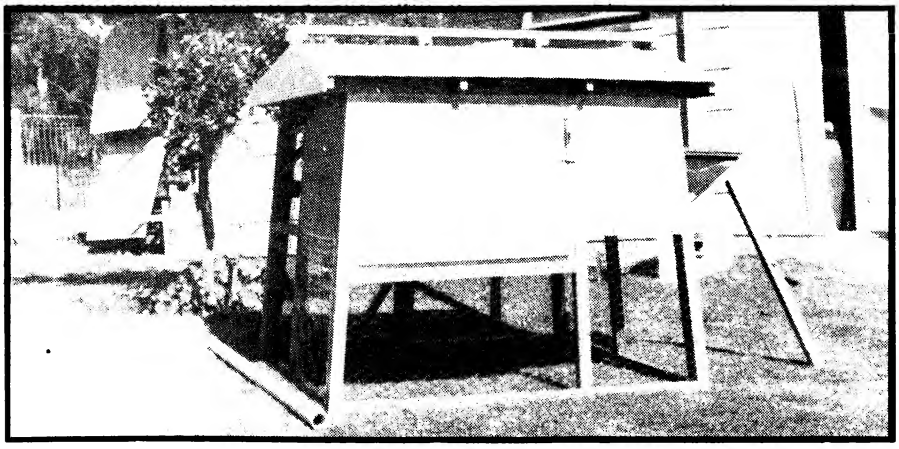
The completed hen-pen ready for occupation. Cost was $35.50 and most materials came from the tip.



Above: The half penthouse, showing access to nesting boxes and ventilated roof.



Above: The roomy ground floor gives the hens plenty of grass area to peck around in.



The droppings tray slides out for easy cleaning.

hinged roof rather than a sliding one (as in the original brochure) which I wasn't able to work out and keep the price to less than $40.

The provision of the droppings tray makes the pen very easy to maintain and clean. I've timed the whole operation of moving, cleaning, filling the hopper and water cup and a string bag with vegie leaves to take an average of eight minutes per day – easy enough for the busiest family these days.

It is altogether a much better idea than a smelly old chook-pen stuck at the bottom of the garden, and perhaps more acceptable to local councils, and it would utilise an otherwise useless lawn.

A final word about construction, I had never built either one before and managed quite well from the pictures in the brochures. Once the four sides are bolted or dowelled together filling the rest in is easy, modern adhesives are truly excellent (I used a lot of Liquid Nails).

Since writing the above I have to add how very pleased we have been with our two hens (Australorp/New Hampshire cross). They're given us 13 eggs a week during what would have to have been the hottest, most humidly dreadful summer we can remember, whereas various friends' poultry had either gone off the lay or suffered death due to heat stress. It can't be my expertise since that only goes back to June '93, perhaps it's the roof insulation and eave and ridge ventilation on the half penthouse. Whatever it is we are satisfied with the results.

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PAINT CHOICE

Gloss paint will show up any imperfections and should be used only when the surface is even and in very good condition. Flat white paint covers up minor imperfections and texture paint will conceal small cracks.

THE WIRE FENCE

By Gunter Glaser, Gracemere, Qld.

The most important components of a wire fence are the corner and straining posts. The posts in between can be much lighter and can be shallower in the ground. Corner and stainer posts should be a minimum of 200 mm (8 in) in diameter and set in the ground to a depth of one metre. The posts in between can be round or split posts of not less than 100 mm (4 in) in diameter or across the face. They should be set in the ground to a depth of at least 600 mm (2 ft) and can be spaced three to five metres apart. If droppers are used they can be spaced further apart, depending what the fence is meant to keep in or out.

UNDERGROUND STAYS

You can learn a lot from the local farmers. One of the things I learnt was how to make underground stays. They are safe from fire and white ants, simple to fit, and look much better than diagonal stays or top rails with diagonal wire.

With your strainer or corner post in place, cut a post with 100 to 150 mm (4-6 in) diameter of solid wood and about 1200 mm (4 ft) long. Strip it of bark and lay it against the strainer post, on the side of the strain. Now with an axe cut out the shape of the strainer to a depth of about 30 mm (1¼ in). Again lay it against the strainer, it should be a good fit, especially on the sides.

Now with the stay lying against the strainer, mark out the shape of the stay on the ground. Remove the stay and dig a shallow trench deep enough to bury the stay about 20 mm (¾ in) under the surrounding surface. Make sure the trench is a tight interference fit with the stay, about 10 mm (½ in) narrower than the stay. Now with the back of the axe or a sledge hammer, ram the stay into the trench against the strainer post. For corner posts just angle the stay to take the wire strain from both directions (see figure 1).

SPACING WIRES

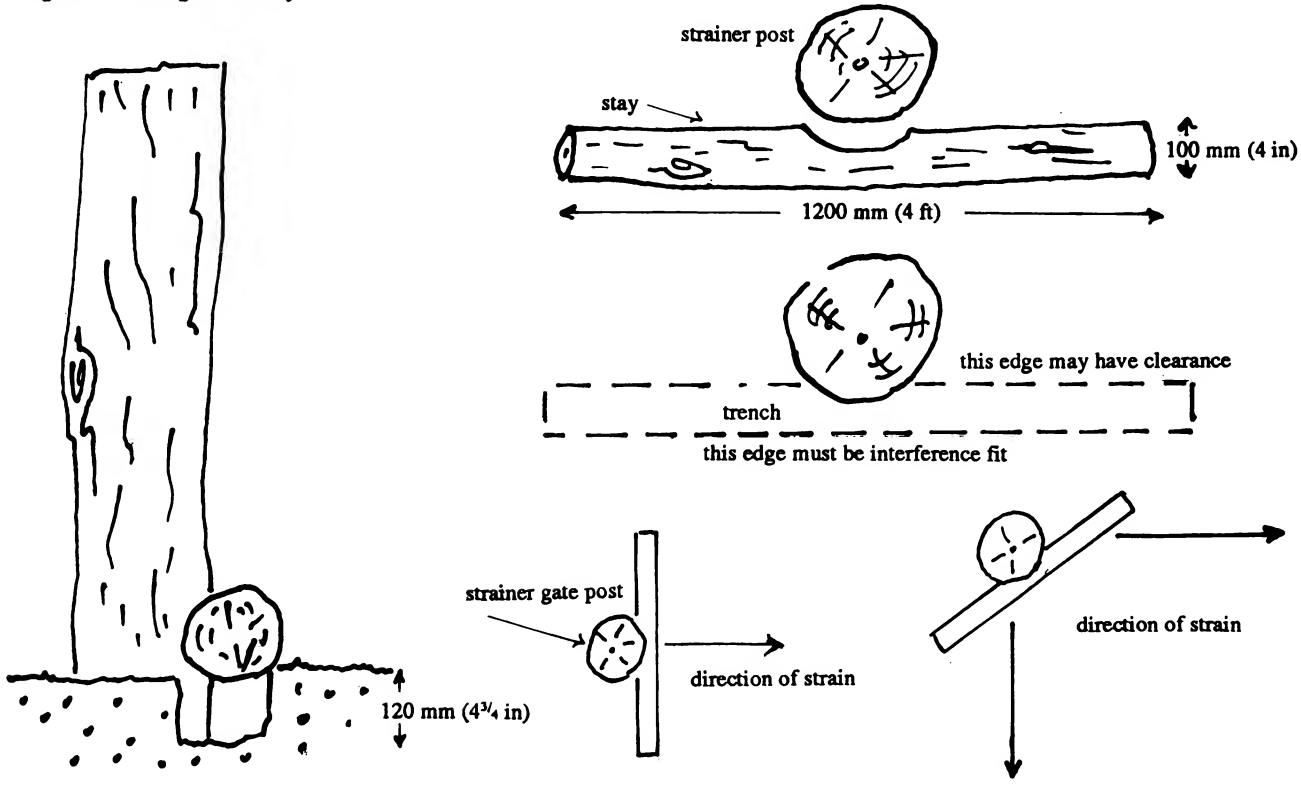
When you've got all your posts in position, they are ready to be bored for as many wires as you've decided to run. It's a good idea to use a measuring stick to get your holes true and even. Cut a piece of timber or batten to length to cover the range of holes you wish to bore. Put a nail in the side of this stick at the top, so that you can hang it from the top of the post, the first hole may be 80 mm (3 in), then 300 mm (1 ft) to the next hole, then two marked off at 400 mm (16 in), leaving a gap of 500 mm (20 in), under the bottom wire to the ground. I like to leave this sort of gap as the wildlife has no trouble in passing under it. Even the grey kangaroo we have in the Nanango area hardly pause to slip under this fence. I've never seen a kangaroo attempt to jump a fence with this gap under it. Jumping fences is what causes the most damage to fence and animal.

WIRE REEL.

Barbed wire already comes on a reel from the supplier, so it's just a matter of driving a crowbar through the centre of the reel into the ground, to anchor the reel. Then it's a simple matter of unreeling the wire as you thread it through your posts. I rest the reel on an old plough disc, so it can spin more freely.

Plain wire is a different story, you can unwind it the conventional way, with a second person carefully feeding the wire out from the centre of the roll as you thread it through the posts, but be careful not to pull too quickly as it kinks easily. To make the job a little easier, especially when working on your own, you can

Figure 1: Underground Stay



make a reel for your plain wire. Take two pieces of timber, about 80 x 40 mm (3 x 1½ in) and long enough to take a reel of plain wire. Fit them together in a cross shape so they will be level as in the diagram. Cut four dowels about 400 mm (16 in) long, bore holes into the cross pieces of timber and fit the dowels so that they locate on the inside of the wire roll.

You'll need a stand for the reel to rotate on. So a solid piece of timber, cut from a stump or log about 500 mm (20 in) in diameter and about 150 mm (6 in) thick will do fine. Make a washer to fit between the solid timber stand and the reel. Use a flat piece of timber well greased or a flat steel plate.

Now bore a hole through the centre of all of them to take a long bolt or steel rod, which will hold it all together and spin freely. Set this up about six metres away from the first post to be threaded. Tie the end of the wire in the centre of the roll to one of the dowels and unwind the wire from the outside of the coil.

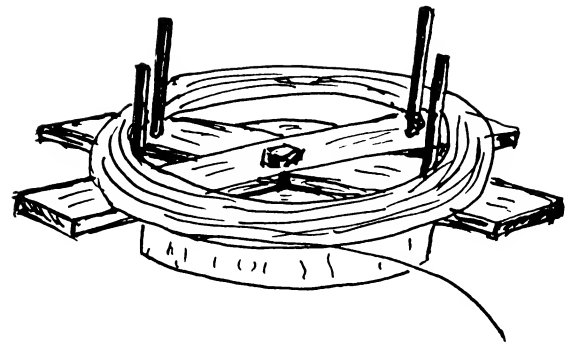
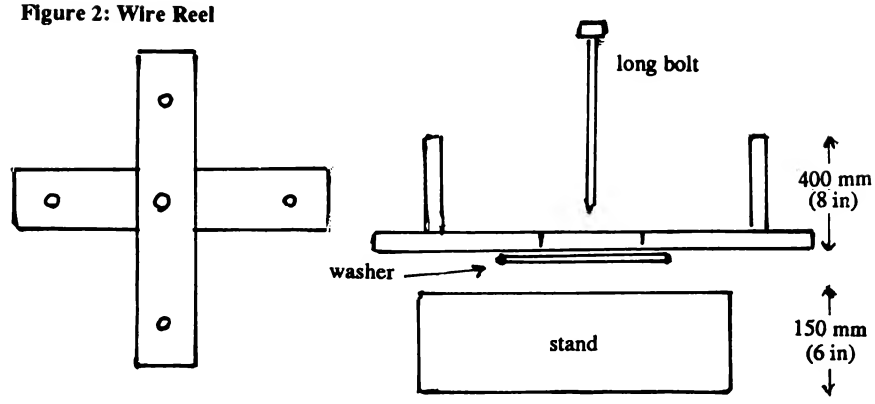


Figure 2: Wire Reel



MICROCLIMATE

People living in southern areas can grow fruits which may not normally thrive in the cooler weather by taking advantage of the heat stored by brick and stone walls and planting trees close to them.

INTERPLANT

Interplant flowers and vegetables. The flowers will not only attract predator insects to devour the pests which usually devour your vegetables, they will also attract bees to ensure pollination.

PROLONG THE HARVEST

When buying fruit trees, if you have space in your garden, look for early, mid and late maturing varieties of each type of fruit to keep you in a continuous supply over a long period.

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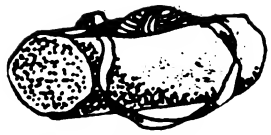
Scoured and carded natural coloured and white wool tops. Plain dyed and blended shades of 22 micron merino blended with cashmere; angora rabbit; camel, kid mohair; alpaca; flax; kid mohair/silk; kid mohair/silk/alpaca; alpaca/silk/camel/kid mohair.

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STICK SPINNING



By Vivenne Manouge, Angaston, SA.

When I first learnt to spin on a spinning wheel, and then with a drop spindle, my thoughts went back to the origins of the craft. I wondered who the first spinner was, when the trick was first discovered, and what was on the discoverer's mind when he/she first cottoned on. I didn't ever get past the wondering stage until I discovered the stick spindle and my dog discovered where I'd hidden the fleece I was planning to spin.

Luke's a participator. If I'm playing with fleeces, he likes to do the same. I found a soft caramel lambswool fleece spread out on the lawn with a tangle of straw and sticks in it. One twig was more convincingly tangled than the others. I pulled it gently and a strand of wool followed, hooked over the jagged remnant of a side-twig. I twisted it to free it, but only succeeded in snagging it on the next side-twig. And, incidentally, in making a short, stout thread! So that was how! Our Paleolithic ancestors, still feeling the cold after the last ice age, must have collected the shed fleeces of the enormous herds of ungulates that ran wild in those days to wrap themselves up in when they slept. They were bound to have a few twigs caught in them, and a Paleolithic *Homo sapiens*, anxious to get a good night's sleep, would almost certainly have tried to remove them in just the same way I did. Maybe the world's first thread was spun from the fleece of a woolly mammoth!

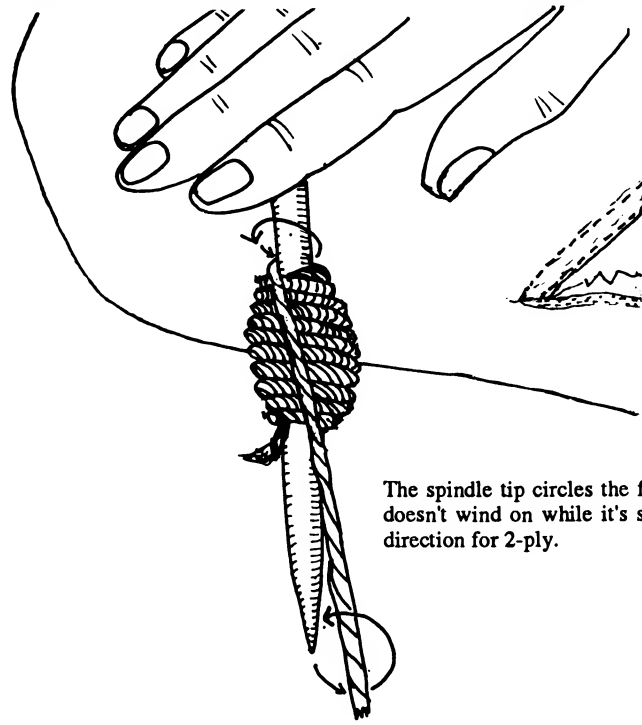
That's not the definitive history of spinning, but it's a start. And if you've never spun before, or even if you have, it's an excellent and thought provoking demonstration of the technique, and a good introduction to the craft. With only a little modification, the snagged twig can be relieved of its tendency to snag and turned into an effective and reasonably efficient spindle. Make two, and you've got a pair of knitting needles and the makings of a back-strap loom to boot!

For a spindle, peel the bark from a straight stick with not too much taper to it, about a centimetre thick and forty-five centimetres long, and taper both ends to a blunt point, like the tip of a knitting needle. Smooth away any splinters. Your hands and contact with the fleece will oil the wood to a smooth finish.

Now that you have your spindle, grab some fleece. As long as it isn't too matted or burry it won't need any preparation. Draw out by hand a strand about fourteen or fifteen centimetres long and twist it between your thumb and forefinger. This will give you an idea of how thick a thread you will get from such a strand. If you want it thicker, draw out thicker strands. The thicker the yarn, the quicker it is to knit or weave. The warm, hard-wearing fabrics made from very thick yarns are every bit as useful as, and sometimes more practical than, the very fine, delicate ones that take so long to make. They also have their own unique beauty. I had to gratify my desire to 'spin a fine thread' before I could allow myself to enjoy the easily won luxury of thick, bulky yarns, so I'm not going to advise beginners to start thick. It's just as easy to learn to spin a fine thread as it is to spin a thick one, it just takes longer. It's purely a matter of taste.

Once you have an idea of the thickness of the strand needed for the yarn you want to make, draw out about forty or fifty centimetres more. Place the spindle on your thigh, near the top, and roll it down towards your knee under the palm of your hand. Without letting it unroll, take it back to the top of the thigh and roll it down again. You might need to do this several times. Put a little tension on the thread as it forms, and when it's quite strong, and before it's too kinky, stop. Don't detach it from the fleece, but wind it around the spindle, about two-thirds of the way along (see diagram).

Now point the shorter end of the spindle along the strand and draw out another forty or so centimetres. Place the longer end over your thigh and roll it down to your knee. Repeat until the thread is firm and strong, gradually increasing the tension on the forming thread as it strengthens. To wind it on, turn the spindle so that it is at an angle to the newly formed thread, and roll it down again. Now you're spinning. Keep going until your spindle is about half-full. Then slide the yarn off. The 'skein' should hold its shape, especially if it hasn't been too tightly wound on. Spin another one in the same way and slide it off. Find the ends of the two skeins and lay them on your thigh, this time near the knee. Roll them towards yourself to make a short length of two-ply. Wind this onto the spindle, in the opposite direction to that required for spinning, and rolling the spindle from knee to top of thigh, ply them together. It should look right, not too tight (though it should be firm if you want to weave with it), and not too loose. A very loose yarn may thin down after it's been made into a fabric, leaving gaps where they're not



The spindle tip circles the forming thread; it doesn't wind on while it's spinning. Reverse direction for 2-ply.

wanted, but if knitted on thin needles, it can make a wonderfully soft, warm garment. Slip the resultant skein off the spindle – and there's your two-ply.

I've given instructions for two-ply because, while it is possible to produce the firm, very even, *very* smooth, VERY strong threads needed for warping a loom using a spindle of this type, it takes more skill than I've got. It's a lot easier on a spinning wheel, where the right tension can be constantly maintained. Two-ply is necessary for knitting because the one-ply tends to slope the way it's spun and the result is skew-wiff. The unevenness and weaknesses of single threads are cancelled out to a large extent in two-ply, making them suitable for weaving.

Obviously, you can produce a stronger thread at a much greater rate on a spinning wheel, where the forming thread is kept under greater tension. At a glance, even the drop spindle looks more efficient than the stick, so why bother? For one thing, it's easier to learn. You feed the thread on at a comfortable pace, shaping the fibres to be spun while the stick is still, and you've got time to doctor the thread as it forms, bringing in more fibre to strengthen a thin part, or teasing out a thick part as it becomes apparent that it isn't going to take up the spin. For the same reason, you save both time and fibre, and obviate the most tedious part of spinning, by not precombing or carding. You spin direct from any reasonably clean raw fleece. Besides, it isn't all that slow, especially if you spin it *thick*. I only devote five hours a week to spinning, knitting and weaving, and I completed, from raw fleece to finished garment, a knitted jerkin in three weeks, and a pair of woven trousers in less than five.

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Healthy Herbal Salt Substitutes

The average Australian consumes 8-10 times more salt than the body requires every day, largely as a matter of habit. Fortunately, public awareness of the problems caused by excessive salt consumption is growing and many people are turning to herbs as a more healthy way of adding flavour and zest to their cooking. There are various blends of dried herbs which are particularly suited to different sorts of foods.

HERB BLENDS

Salt-free Salad Blend

Basil, parsley, lovage, marjoram, dill, French tarragon or chervil, savory.

Savoury Fish Seasoning

Basil, lemon grass, dill, fennel leaves, savory, rosemary.

Soup Blend

Basil, lovage, parsley, marjoram, savory, bay leaf.

Pate 'Salt'

1/2 tsp each ground bay leaves, cloves, nutmeg, paprika, thyme

3/4 tsp each basil, cinnamon, oregano, sage, savory

1/4 cup white peppercorns

Grind together all ingredients and store in a tightly capped jar.

GARLIC BLENDS

Garlic is another herb regularly used to cut down on the amount of salt in a diet. The following are two all-purpose salt substitutes based on powdered garlic.

All-purpose 'Salt' 1

Proportions may be varied according to taste.

1/2 tsp mustard seeds

1 tbsp each of black peppercorns, cayenne pepper, soy lecithin granules, dried oregano

2 tbsp garlic powder, onion flakes

Blend ingredients in spice mill or coffee grinder till well combined and powdery. Store in an airtight container for up to four months.

All-purpose 'Salt' 2

1/4 tsp dry mustard, cayenne or paprika

1/2 tsp lecithin granules, ascorbic acid powder

1 tsp each of dried thyme, dried marjoram, celery seeds, garlic powder, onion flakes.

Grind and store as above.

SEAWEED

Seaweeds – such as kelp or dulse – (available at health food stores) are also useful salt substitutes. Blend seaweed powder with dried lemon peel, a little ginger or nutmeg and fennel or anise leaves for a tasty seasoning for fish or poultry dishes.

SEEDS

Herb seeds (freshly ground for preference) provide yet another alternative as the following recipe shows.

Seed 'Salt'

2 cloves garlic

1/2 tsp black pepper

10 leaves lettuce leaf basil

2 tsp sweet marjoram or oregano leaves

4 tsp fennel or dill seeds

1 tsp poppy seed

1 tsp celery seed

Process garlic, herb leaves and pepper in blender for two minutes. Add seeds and continue blending till smooth.

Reprint from 'Herb Age', No 99, the newsletter of the Herb Society of Victoria Inc. Enquiries can be directed to: PO Box 396, Camberwell, 3124.

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Car Maintenance: Air Cleaner

By Arthur Frith, Taree, NSW.

I am an automotive mechanic, having started in the trade in 1962 and been working on motor vehicles since then. I have kept up to date with changes in the industry and would like to offer readers the benefit of my expertise in a series of articles covering basic auto repairs and maintenance.

The series will concentrate on non-EFI vehicles and non-front wheel drive or four wheel drive vehicles, as these usually require specialist equipment and trained personnel. The average do-it-yourselfer may cause expensive damage to computers and other delicate equipment often found in late model cars. If anyone has a specific problem which requires information I will be happy to help via the Feedback section or in a later article, if that seems appropriate.

In this first article I will describe how to service the air cleaner, the most important component of an engine, yet the most neglected by do-it-yourself-maintenance car owners.

The air cleaner is located in the engine compartment on most vehicles. It is either connected directly onto the carburettor or by a ducting pipe to the air horn of the carburettor. Inside the air cleaner will be found an element, known as an air filter which is usually readily accessible by way of a lid secured by either a wing nut, a nut, spring clips, a combination of clips and nut, or screws. Once the fasteners have been removed the lid can be lifted off the air filter. The filter element can then be removed and inspected.

The purpose of the air cleaner is to allow clean atmospheric air to enter into the engine. If the air was not filtered, minute particles of dust in the atmosphere would enter into the engine cylinders and damage the bore and rings thus causing premature engine failure. All internal combustion engines should have an air cleaner fitted and in a serviceable condition.

To understand how an air filter works, it can be compared with a tea strainer. Make a pot of tea and stir it well. Using the strainer to filter out the tea leaves, pour the tea into a large bowl (figure 1). You will notice to start with, that all the liquid tea will go through the strainer and the leaves start to build up in the strainer. As the tea leaves collect and mount up in the strainer the liquid flow becomes restricted and eventually there will be more tea leaves in the strainer and no liquid will be able to pass through (figure 2).

An air filter works on the same principle. Dirt particles are trapped in the element and build up over a period of use. Eventually the filter will be restricted or blocked and little or no air will be flowing through the filter. When this happens the engine will use more fuel, it will even start taking dirt particles into the cylinder and cause damage.

Lawn mowers, stationary engines, chainsaws, tractors, whipper snippers, brush cutters, cars, trucks, boats all have air cleaners which must be serviced. The more dust in the atmosphere, the more frequently the filter requires servicing or replacement.

TESTING AN AIR FILTER

The air filter element may be tested for restriction by removing the element from the air cleaner, turning on the car headlights to high beam and placing the air filter element in front of the headlamp and looking through the filter to see if any light is visible through it. Rotate the filter to inspect the whole filter condition (figure 3). If little or no light is seen through the filter then it requires replacing.

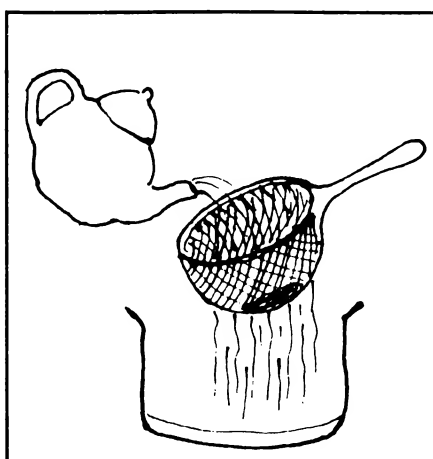


Figure 1
Lots of liquid flow, few tea leaves.

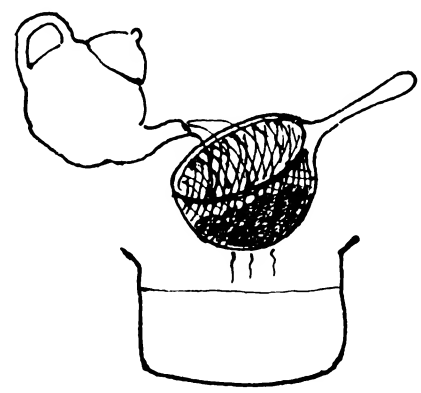
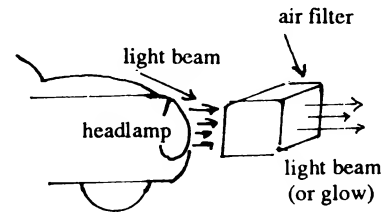


Figure 2
Lots of tea leaves, little liquid flow.

Figure 3: Inspecting Filter



view from right hand side of air filter

Tapping the filter on the ground will usually dislodge loose particles of dirt from the filter. This will also give you an indication of how 'dirty' the filter is. That is, if lots of dirt falls out then the filter must be renewed. *Do not blow compressed air through a paper type filter element as this may cause damage to the filter material.* The paper type air filters cannot be successfully cleaned.

TYPES OF AIR FILTERS

Oil Bath

This is usually found on vehicles prior to 1960, except for VW. To service this type, remove the fasteners and remove the air cleaner from the vehicle. Dismantle the components and wash them in petrol or kerosene. Allow them to dry and pour new oil into the base at the required level as indicated on the case. Refit the filter onto the engine.

Sponge Type

This is used on some small stationary engines and mowers. They can also be found as after-market replacements. To service this type, remove the sponge from the air cleaner assembly and wash the sponge in warm water and detergent. Wring out completely dry and soak in oil (or as recommended by the manufacturer).

Reference to the manufacturer's recommended procedures is essential in all cases.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- When cleaning with petrol or kerosene use suitable gloves to prevent skin damage.
- Clean parts in the open, not in a shed where fumes can be trapped and ignite.
- Do not smoke whilst near inflammable liquids.
- Wear eye goggles whilst washing parts to prevent the cleaning fluid from splashing into the eyes.

Next issue, I will describe the all-important cooling system, how it works and how to service it.



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TREE PLANTING AUGER

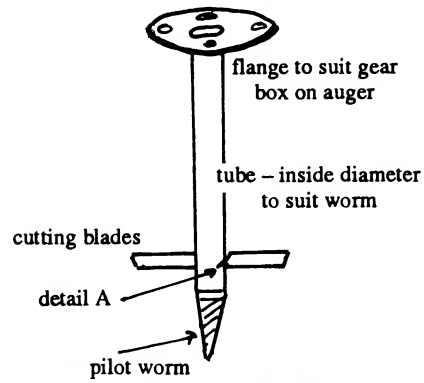
By Dennis Hill, Beechwood, NSW.

A friend of mine obtained a tractor driven tree planting auger at an auction a while ago. The maker's plate credits the design to the CSIRO. The design is elegantly simple, and easy to make at home.

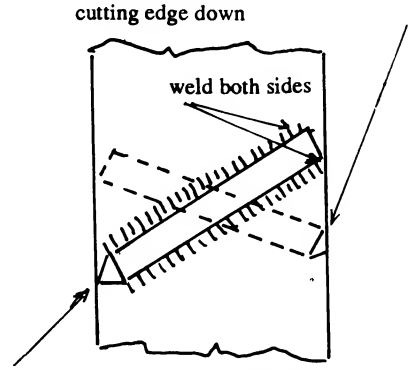
First, find a pilot 'worm' for a post hole auger, your local ag machinery supplier will have one. Next, find about one metre of heavy wall steel tube with an inside diameter to fit over the worm. Next, go to your scrap metal merchant and buy two lengths of 75 x 19 mm flat steel bar about 150 mm long, these are welded to the steel tube about 50 mm from the end. They need to be set at a slight angle so that they act as a sort of auger and help drive the digger into the earth.

Now comes the hard bit. You need a piece of about 13 mm plate cut in a circle and drilled to fit the drive flange on your post hole digger. Weld the whole lot together and you have an ideal tree planter. The hole will be full of soft earth and the sides of the hole will not have the polish that you get from a normal post hole digger.

Tree Planting Auger
total length about 1 m, can be less



Detail A



Here are several hints to help you with the job.

Make sure the tube is good heavy wall pipe, the heavier the better. Water pipe will not survive for long, a 50 hp tractor will turn 50 mm pipe into a cork screw if the auger catches on a rock, tree root or other obstacle.

- If you plan to dig lots of holes in hard ground, 'hard face' the cutting edges of the blades.
- Most of the work is home-handyman stuff, but you may need some engineering assistance for the drive flange.

All this assumes you want a tractor-driven digger. For me, if I have to dig more than a couple of holes, I get the tractor, but maybe I'm just getting older and a little lazy.

I hope the enclosed rough sketch gets the idea across, but the CSIRO would supply a more detailed drawing, I am sure.

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Down home on the farm...

by David Miller



In the last few months, it has been hot, dry and dusty here at Grass Roots. Much of the rain expected in autumn fell earlier in late summer leaving us with dry, clear, warm days and cool nights. At this time of the year, the last thing country people want is 'city weather'. For the dry summer pasture to start growing again to support stock over the cold months, and farmers to get their crops in and growing well, the country needs early rain with continuing showers, especially in the earlier, warmer months of autumn. This is what everyone calls a 'good start to the season'. And when we don't get the rain when it is needed, the weather becomes the main topic of conversation because without it the rural economy immediately suffers.

One of the annoying by-products of this weather pattern is dust. Copious amounts of light, fine soil form in the summer months and if rain does not come to dampen it down and keep it in place, it is lifted by the lightest air movement. The unwelcome result is a fine layer of dirt on anything that is exposed, from the leaves of plants in the garden to visitor's cars that happen to be parked for more than a couple of hours. Even the young ducks, whose feathers have not grown completely, look grubby until they get their daily bath in the dam.

Coinciding with this lack of supply from above has been the extensive use of the water delivery system which has generally had a mind of its own and gone on strike when urgently needed. We have a pump on the dam which delivers water to the garden and the poultry. This was replaced earlier in the year because it had worn out and we had no end of trouble getting the foot valve to work satisfactorily. The foot valve is on the end of the line in the water and is used to prevent water flowing back out of the pipes, through the pump and into the dam when the pump is not in use. When it is working, there is always water in the line and hence in the pump, so the pump simply pumps the water when it is switched on. If the foot valve is not working, water drains out of the line and when you switch the pump on all you get is air! The pump only delivers water if there is water in the pump when you switch it on. Well, the foot valve just refused to work, and for two weeks we adjusted it and reprimed the system (filled the line with water again) and it would go for a day or so, then stop. Finally I stripped yet again and waded into the dam with a steel post and the post driver. Having fixed the post securely in the deep water, I wired the inlet pipe to it so the foot valve hung downwards and it has worked ever since.

Shortly after, we noticed a strange taste in the drinking water. In the country, this is usually due to something wild going for a drink in the fresh water tank and slipping at the edge. Nature then tends to follow its own well-worn path, mainly because it is very difficult for a wild animal to climb slippery, vertical, galvanised iron walls in the dark. The animal species involved are not usually good swimmers, either, and the tragedy is only signalled some time later by the morning coffee tasting 'a bit off'. Now, to be brutally honest, we were completely at fault in this case. The strange flavour was coming from the new tank whose lid had fallen in a couple of weeks previously, and we had been too slack to dive in and get it out. The lid had not fitted properly and we had been too keen to get the tank filled. Fiddling with the lid with the tank full of water had resulted in the unwieldy top slipping out of control down into the pristine depths. Some unkind observations on personality were exchanged and the job was 'put off'. The tank had now taken on a new shape without the lid and the situation could only be remedied at low tide. What we hadn't counted on was the tree near the tank shedding its leaves into the water.

So when the emergency was announced, I collected our portable pump from the farm and pumped out most of the water, set up a ladder outside and in, and descended into the slippery 30 centimetres of water looking for the body. The tank had to be cleaned of the leaves and rubbish before being filled with fresh water again. After tipping about 10 bucketfuls over the side I called for assistance. There we were on an autumn afternoon, Megg in her old runners and me in my leather boots, throwing slimy water around in a claustrophobic atmosphere. Then she remarked that if the outside ladder fell sideways, we may well be in the tank together for the whole weekend.

There was no body after all, only leaves and sticks which had started to decay, so all those thoughts of drinking strange things were quickly forgotten. The tank is now clean, filled with fresh water and the lid securely in place.

Megg's mother Doris used to say events happened in threes and so it came about that we had another water crisis during our dry autumn. I was about to leave for the farm one evening when Megg directed my attention to the strange sound the house pressure pump was making. We investigated and found that the pump was leaking and would need to be repaired. 'Probably a seal,' I said, thinking that it would last until I returned. It hit the deck that night, of course, so we summoned the local plumber who replaced it with a spare while it is away being repaired. We now feel nothing else can happen to the water supply as all systems have been upgraded to a higher level of efficiency.

The sheep are in trouble again. It's been bad enough having old Merle thinking she was a chook these last five years, now her sidekick Merlette is acting like a goose. She too is a pest, in and out of all the fowl houses and stealing food, but worse still she responds to the call of 'goose, goose' and causes chaos in the flock. Two dozen geese raise enough dust and make enough noise without a silly bleating lamb!

The cattle are thriving, with young calves growing well and the Highlands starting to grow their winter coats of long coarse hair. I am starting my last irrigation for the season in three days time. Even though it is too cold for much grass growth, the locals say that if you don't irrigate, a frost will kill the dry grass and the pasture goes off for winter. That means more hay must be fed to get the stock through to spring in good condition. We recently bought some weaner calves, mainly Angus and Murray Grey, and they really caused a stir. As soon as they were let off the truck they tried to push all the fences over trying to find

their mothers. They ran about for a week mooing and eventually settled down when they could get no answer to their persistent calls. I could repair the fences in the knowledge that they would not be flattened again.

The cool weather is also bringing the mice. Sunshine was home from university for a few days and heard a strange movement in the cabinet beside her bed late one morning. Horrified, she flew over to the office in her pyjamas announcing to Megg that there was something huge trapped in one of the drawers of her bedside cabinet. Megg seized a lump of wood and ran to investigate. All they found was a small hole nibbled in one of Suni's chocolate eggs left over from Easter. A mouse must have been rolling it around the drawer, determined to keep it still so it could finish off its breakfast. Only then did Sunshine realise she had risen in haste, rushed across the yard in her pyjamas and bare feet and blurted out the news in front of an amazed office staff. A small mouse was caught in the drawer the next day.



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RARE BREEDS SURVEY



As an important step towards conserving rare breeds of poultry and ducks within Victoria a group of students at the Gordon TAFE, sponsored by the Rare Breeds Trust of Victoria, is undertaking a survey to establish the whereabouts of poultry enthusiasts keeping rare breeds. In the past, few records have been kept, making it impossible to keep track of the current status of the rare breeds, or to know when they might be in danger of becoming extinct.

Through this programme the students (all unemployed and under 22 years old) will be gaining valuable experience in the use of computers, conservation, and general communication skills. The projected outcome is the compilation of a data base recording numbers and locations of rare breeds of poultry and ducks, which will be instrumental in the future conservation work of the Rare Breeds Trust.

Victorian Breeders are urged to contact the survey team and participate in this vital project. The team wishes to be contacted by all breeders in order to be able to make recommendations about which breeds actually deserve a 'rare breeds' classification.

The contact address for information and enquiries: Rare Breeds Survey, Private Bag 1, Geelong Postal Exchange, 3221. Alternatively breeders can ring the Gordon Technical College on 052-250-906, during working hours, or Martin Forbes on 052-513-684, after hours.

CRYPTIC GRASSWORD
Continued from page 52.

A	P	R	O	N	■	D	■	T	E	E	T	H
R	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	W	■	X	■	E
E	■	F	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E	■	A
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M	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	Z	■	E	■	D
P	O	W	E	R	■	G	■	E	N	T	R	Y

PENPALS

Hello everybody, my name is Shirley Hills and I am 13 years old. I enjoy cooking, writing letters, running, high jumping, but most of all I love receiving letters. I wouldn't mind a penpal between the ages of 11 and 14.

Shirley Hills, C/- PO BOX 242, EUROA 3666.

Hi, I am Cheryl. I am ten years old. I am looking for a penpal around my age. I like reading, bike riding and sewing. I would love a penpal from overseas.

Cheryl Hills, C/- PO Box 242 EUROA 3666.

Hi, my name is Sarah. I am 11 years old. I enjoy reading, dancing, horse riding and listening to music. I would like a penpal my age and sex.

Sarah Schoeller, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Hi! My name's Sarah, and I'm a 16 year old girl who'd like to write to a guy aged 16-21. I love listening to music, partying and spending time with my friends. I'm also into TV, movies and the acting scene.

Sarah K, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Hi, my name is Stacey. I am 8 years old and would like a penpal around my age. My interests are reading, playing the piano, drama and animals. So pick up a pen and get some paper and write to me.

Stacey Stevens, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Hi! My name is Chris and I'm looking for penpals from all over Australia. I'm 22, married and interests include craft, cooking, reading and letter writing. I would love to welcome anyone who might like to strike up a friendship.

Christene Golledge, 58 Coopers Camp Rd, BARDON 4065.

My name is Mellisa and I'm 18. I'd like to meet all sorts or people through pen and paper. Any age, sex, interests or lifestyle, I'd love to hear from you.

Melissa Garlick, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

I am a modest, 51 year old, small organic farmer also running sheep, wishing to exchange letters on a regular basis about this type of agriculture, with international and Australian organic farmers.

Rex M Niemz, Box 120, FREELING 5372.

Hi, My name is Wendy. I am 34, happily married with two children, 10 and 12. My interests are gardening, keeping poultry, cooking and collecting old bits and pieces. If you would like to write I will reply to all letters.

Wendy, PO Box 513, HEATHCOTE 3523.

Hi there! My name is Cristyl Luppi and I've just turned 10 years old. I enjoy music, guitar, basketball, swimming, reading, dancing, videos and my vegie garden. I'm waiting to hear from interesting, fun kids around my age, from anywhere, and I'll answer every letter.

Cristyl Luppi, C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GRASSIFIEDS

HOW TO ADVERTISE

Use the form provided at the end of the Grassified section, or a separate sheet of paper, to print your advertisement clearly, not in block capitals, including correct punctuation. Remember to include an address or phone number in your advertisement. Count the number of words and multiply by 40 cents per word (all types of ads) to work out the total cost of your advertisement. Send your advertisement and payment to Grassifieds, PO Box 242, Euroa 3666 before the deadline and we'll include your advertisement in the next issue of Grass Roots.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

NEW SOUTH WALES

FAR SOUTH COAST, land close superb unspoiled beaches, nat pks. Situated at Tanja, 11 km nth Tathra, amongst rolling farmland, excel water access, great views. Suitable permaculture. Two blocks side by side, approx 2 ha. Valuation $60-66,000 neg. Ph: 064-940-172, or 03-824-0308.

CENTRAL TABLELANDS NSW. Ample water is the feature of this property which is offered on a half share basis to someone looking to achieve an alternative lifestyle. The area is ample & could support cattle or horses or whatever. At present it has only chooks & vegie garden. A very comfortable cottage is avail & many sites to build in stone or log cabin which material is readily avail. No emotional commitment is required, but there is a monetary commitment. For someone who has not enough to achieve this situation this an excel opportunity. DR (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

MID NORTH COAST, halfway Port/Coffs, 25 scenic ac, partially cleared excel soil, dam, crk, settlers cabin, new zincalume garage, 10 min to coast. $65,000. Ph: Chris, 06-291-6235.

LISMORE – STUNNING 303 ac, Tuntable Creek bndry – swimming holes. Majestic hardwood trees, palms, waterfall, treeferns, blue figs, silky oaks, cedar, wildlife galore, 2000 macadamias, 1150 pecans, kiwi fruit. Timber farmhouse, shed, all plant, equipment. Can be subdivided. Ideally suit multiple occupancy or organic share farm. Like-minded neighbours, school, shops handy. Pool your resources & your friends together for lifestyle in paradise. $560,000. Ph: Suzanne, 066-212-287, or 066-880-169 AH.

WILD HORSE RANGE: NULLO MT, via Rylstone, 120 ac f/hold bush block, mostly basalt, perm spring, power, ph, mail not far away. Isolation a feature. $49,000 ONO. Ph: Mark Brodie, 063-796-258.

UKI VIA MURWILLUMBAH, 5 ha, 2 b/r split level cedar house, 3/4 verandahs, panoramic windows, elevated position with northerly aspect, lge orchard, perm water, pump with shed, dam, solar HWS & power, lge shed, 5000 gal w/ tank, combustion heater, gas stove. Frost-free, no chemicals used, beautiful views, plenty of wildlife, excel neighbours, 15 min to town, 45 min to surf beaches. Sealed rd, secure company title with cheap rates. Owner relocated. $86,000 ONO. Ph: Archie, 066-891-377.

NORTH COAST NSW, b/ween Murwillumbah & Kyogle, on sealed rd. Two b/r home on 39 ac, power, ph, stockyard, fowl pen, mostly frost-free with great views. Approx 30 ac clear, remainder timber incl 400 pine trees. Abundant water from 3 dams, few kms to Steiner school. $185,000 ONO. Ph: 066-897-335 AH.

SETTLERS COTTAGE TARALGA, 2/3 b/r, nearly an ac of black soil in township. Town water, shops, schools. $50,000 ONO. Ph: 048-402-156 AH.

WARRUMBUNGLES: RELUCTANT SALE, 33.15 ha, crk frontage, springs, tanks, piping, sheds. One ha rich flats, 3 pasture, balance sandstone, ironbark, angophora. Cul-de-sac sth of Coonabarabran. $66,300. Ph: 063-319-156.

MERIMBULA, SOUTH COAST NSW, 2x5 ac blocks. power and ph on site, sealed road frontage, close to town and beaches, very attractive blocks with private rural setting. $65,000 ONO. Ph: 064-959-257 AH.

KEMPSEY – MACKSVILLE district, 30 ac, pole/mud brick cottage, cleared crk flats, hilly timbered forest, dam, power, ph, school bus. $75,000. Ph: 065-850-391, 065-671-206.

HOBBYS YARDS NSW, near Bathurst. School house and classroom on 1 ac, in a valley in lovely, quiet hamlet, 3 b/r, lounge with potbelly stove & dining rm with o/fire. Solid dble brick, recently painted, new carpets. Very quiet and close to employment. The classroom would be ideal for craft or Dev tea rm. Has a very relaxing atmosphere. $99,500 ONO. Ph: 063-682-014, or 063-683-198.

NYMBOIDA, NORTH COAST, 370 bush ac, accessible home sites with views, plateau, rock escarpment, caves, hidden valleys but near village school, hall etc, suit sub-div, multi occupancy or become prince of your own principality for $135,000. Ph: 066-494-247.

NORTHERN RIVERS/NYMBOIDA RIVER frontage & views, 2 b/r prof designed & built rusticated, timber lined cottage on fully fenced 35 picturesque ac & crk, stockyards. Suit horses or small stud, mostly semi cleared, incl solar power, gas fridge & heater, WM, water pump etc. $150,000. Ph: 066-494-180.

SOUTH COAST, 20 MINUTES BEGA. Three b/r mud brick & stone house, artisan built, heaps of character, well finished, low maintenance, sep mud brick divided workshop 16x17 m, suit business or second residence. Six km Brogo Dam & Wadbilliga Wilderness. Frost-free organic garden & irrigated orchard. Power, ph, school bus, tennis court, fully rabbit fenced, very private, great views. $175,000. Ph: 064-927-239.

HISTORIC UKI TWO KILOMETRES, 12 km Murwillumbah, 20 min Kingscliffe Beach, secluded 7 ac in estab rural sub-division. Total privacy, stunning views Mt Warning, power, bore dam, cleared homesite, builder's pole. Cheapest acreage left at $120,000. Ph: 066-725-579.

ONE HUNDRED ACRES ON NYMBOIDA River. Partly fenced arable land, 12 V solar powered cabin. Six thousand gal r/water storage. Good access. $100,000. Ph: Annie, 066-220-637.

MID NORTH COAST NSW, 17 elevated ac Camdem Haven River with 300° views to coast. Good access, rustic dwelling with power & good water. $160,000. Also: 23 fertile acres, Old Bar (Taree), 400m from river. Country style home built 1978 of 3 b/r & study $189,000. Also: 23 acres Manning Point with views to river and coast. Modern 30 sq home plus another of 20 sq near completed, sheds. $280,000. Also: 116 acres midway Taree and Old Bar, 30 sq w/b home, lge sheds, dams. Very private, adj state forest. $295,000. Old Bar Beach RE, 47 Old Bar Rd, Old Bar 2430. Ph: 065-537-736, or 065-537-780 AH.

FOSSICKERS WAY, 15 ACRES on Bingara town bndry. Town/tank water, ph. Local pine, 3 b/r solar home nearing completion. Extensive views overlooking township, Gwydir Valley, adj forestry lease and state forest. $130,000. Ph: 067-714-881.

BUSH RETREAT, 38 KILOMETRES MUDGEE. Be self-suff & get back to nature on this secluded 50 ac. Half cleared and fenced but needing repairs. Two dams, sheds and chook-yard. Two b/r cottage with gas stove, fridge/freezer, chip heater & o/fire. Large vegie garden & orchard, bbq & pergola. Phone, no power. Urgent forced sale. $65,000 ONO. Ph: 043-651-902.

NYMBOIDA, BUSH BLOCK, 100 ac, 45 km Grafton, alternative minded community, qualifies for RAPS. Last affordable paradise on north coast. $55,000. Ph: 066-494-247, or 015-256-549.

NYMBOIDA, BEAUTIFUL BUSHLAND setting, quality mud brick house, 2 b/r, big solar electric & HW, open plan layout, 2 dams, workshop garage, garden shed. Forty-seven ac, 2nd building site cleared, joins state forest. $149,000. Ph: 066-494-427.

GRAFTON, 25 KILOMETRES, Ramornie Home on 118 ac, 3 b/r, all true doubles, lge kit, dining room, lounge, laundry, verandah b&f. Front verandah is 10 ft wide, 50 ft long. Cathedral ceilings, combustion and electric stoves, solar HWS, 2 en suites, brick walls inside and outside, fire safe, no painting. Two dams, one spring-fed, numerous f/trees. Mail delivery and school bus at foot of property. Two 5000 gal w/tanks. Millionaire views, cattle on agistment pay the rates, mtn to climb, caves to explore, orchids to collect. $235,000 or sensible offer. Ph: 066-473-128.

WOLLOMBI AREA, 22 ac in beaut valley surrounded by nat pk. Half arable, rest virgin bush. Dams, crk, sheds, ph, water tank, building site. Two hrs Sydney. Ideal weekender or GR lifestyle. $57,000. Ph: 02-560-1549.

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

PROPERTY FOR SALE

NEW SOUTH WALES

HUNTER VALLEY, 80 rolling ac, half bush, good fencing, water. Excellent sheds, suit contractor. Sound older house, 4 b/r, new plumbing. $195,000 ONO. Ph: 065-745-205.

BEGA AREA, 38 ac mix bush & cleared, crk, c/van & annexe, solar power, tank, pump, sheds. Fenced, cleared house site, 20 min Bega, magnif views, easy access but very private. $60,000 ONO. Ph: 062-487-091.

MID NORTH COAST, Ellenborough Falls, 100 ac, basalt soil, 3 crks from state forest, lge dam for swimming. Forty sq log home recently built, 4 b/r, landscaped, great home. Lge machinery shed/dwelling, concrete floor, power. Orange/lemon orchard, 120 trees. $295,000. Ph: 065-841-026.

GLEN INNES, 100 ac with 3 b/r house plus attic, lounge room, kitchen, s/c/fire, septic, elec on not connected. Bush block, 30 ac cleared, perm water, school bus. $95,000. Ph: Frank Parry, 067-323-635.

NORTHERN RIVERS NSW, 400 ac, 25 cleared. Two crks, spring-fed dam, mango & lime orchard, tractor & implements, lge mach shed. Comfortable 3 b/r home 7 yrs old, bitumen rd to town. $160,000. Ph: 066-667-115 after 6pm.

KIAH-EDEN, RIVER FRONTAGE, 10 ac, 2/3 virgin bushland & fern gully. Established orchard, river flat, partly fenced. Accommodation comprises a timber settler style cottage of 2 b/rs. Phone connected, solar & generator, power close at hand. Permanent water from Towamba River + r/w/tank. Large new alum clad workshop/studio. Secluded bush/riverland setting only 15 min from town & schools. School bus at door, 1 1/2 km to highway. $125,000. Ph: Anne Mitchell, 02-958-8960.

MOLONG, NEAR ORANGE, 320 ac, secluded f/hold rural property, timbered to cleared valleys – w/ender + 6 berth c/van, no power. Suit cattle and horses or communal interests. Vendor offers interest-free terms for 12 mths on 10% deposit. $119,000. Ph: 02-823-1353.

CULLEN BULLEN, 20 min west Lithgow, 7 1/2 ha mountainous with a glen, fabulous views. Adjacent state forest, occasional snow, seasonal crk. Services close by. Some erosion base of property otherwise well timbered. $32,000. Ph: 044-460-639.

BINNAWAY, 20 MINUTES COONABARABRAN. Four ac, fully fenced, 1000 gal w/tank, no power. Views to Warrumbungles. Cheap at $6500. Ph: 042-323-362.

WELLINGTON VALLEY. If it's peace & quiet you're after, here it is: 150 ac in peaceful valley, stretching into natural timbered hills with plenty of wildlife. Two sml cottages, lge woolshed, 6 paddocks, perm water, poultry run, orchard, 2 dams, power, ph, septic. $125,000. Ph: 068-467-296.

MONGARLOWE/BRAIDWOOD, secluded property adj to Mt Budawang, Budawang Nat Pk. Long Mongarlowe River frontage, trout, well timbered. Historic old goldfield. Native flora & fauna: tree ferns, ground orchids, grevillea, hakea etc. All weather access, telephone, no elec. Spring-fed crks. Established f/trees, sml sheds. Some pasture improvement, will run 30-50 cows. 520 ac $550,000 or 200 ac $300,000. Offers on 40 to 80 ac portions. Ph: 062-546-484, or 046-309-385.

BEAUTIFUL TWEED VALLEY, 1/2 hr Murwillumbah, idyllic 6 1/2 ac with attractive cedar home, own power, gardens, orchard, spring-fed crk, clean environment, 3 nat pks surrounding. Secure company title. $110,000. Ph: 075-452-039, or 075-453-431.

FIFTEEN ACRES KYOGLE, proximity of Border Ranges Nat Pk. Fertile r/forest pockets, shelf country, clean perm crk, swimming hole. $40,000. Ph: 066-364-242.

TABULAM, 350 ACRES, partly timbered, 5 dams, crk bndry, well fenced, wildlife, 3 dwellings, solar power. $125,000. Ph: 066-663-611.

FAR SOUTH COAST - TIN POT, 260 ac with 1/2 km of Tuross River frontage, 1 hr from Bermagui. $89,000. Ph: 064-934-919.

THE MURRAH - BERMAGUI, 72 ac, ocean views, shack, 3 dams, 10 ac cleared & surrounded by state forest. $165,000. 28 ac with shack, 2 dams, ocean views. All weather road access. $125,000. Ph: 064-934-919.

CASINO AREA, 300 ACRES, hilly with substantial flat area at rear, lightly timbered, semi-secluded. Ideal for goats, bush retreat, w/ender. Must sell. No dinkum offer refused. At $23,000 1992 Valuer General's price, you can't find cheaper. Will accept a further 10% discount for cash. Ph: owner through agent, Joe, 066-622-077.

UNSPOILED FOREST INLAND FROM EDEN on far sth coast of NSW. Natural bush with long crk frontage in area of nat pks and state forests – own your own nat pk? Total seclusion close to beaches, rivers, lakes, parks, snowfields, old gold mines. Ideal to share. 100 ac almost surrounded by crk, only one common bndry – $80,000. 120 ac with long crk frontage – $70,000. Ph: 047-824-856, or 841-020 or write: Bushland, PO Box 59, LEURA 2780.

COONABARABRAN, 3 semi-cleared ac 2 kms from PO, just off sealed road to Warrumbungle Nat Pk & Siding Spring Observatory, with some good soil. Good water from bore, 240 V power & ph on site, bndry fenced. $31,000. Ph: Tony Marx or Robyn Keech, 068-421-740, or 422-021, or fax: 068-422-754.

THIRTEEN AND A HALF ACRES, perm crk & 2 dams, deep fertile soil, 20 citrus & stone fruit trees. 10 pine nut trees for a cash crop. Two b/r house with elec, ph, potbelly, bathroom & hot water, 2 1/2 sheds. $95,000. Ph: 065-558-953.

MID NORTH COAST, PAPPINBARRA VALLEY, on coastal mtn range, 40 min to Port Macquarie, 40 ac organically farmed. Western red cedar cabin with tank, ph, elec. Forest on 2 bndrys. School bus, lge spring-fed dam stocked with perch + 3 others. Seasonal crks, springs, + perm soaks. Excellent soil, lots of native trees, selectively cleared except 6 timbered ac (inc 3 mature red cedar trees). Fruit trees, passionfruit vines, lge herb and vegie garden – all organic. Solid workshop & poultry sheds. Very private, absolutely beautiful. $94,000. Ph: 065-876-131.

QUEENSLAND

BUSH RETREAT NEAR TARA, Qld, 80 ac with dam & electricity. $22,500 ONO. Ph: owner, 067-345-399.

KINGAROY, 570 ACRES natural bushland, timber, 2 dams, quiet, secluded. $75,000. Ph: 072-844-295.

STANTHORPE, TEN ACRES, suit hobby farmer or just a great place to live. Some apple, pear & plum f/trees, willows & poplars, magnif lge pine trees. Seasonal wildflowers & birdlife. Enclosed shed & tank. Electricity on property. Bitumen road frontage. $35,000 (or swap for 6 ostriches 4 months or older, or 2 pregnant alpacas). Write: Shane, PO Box 496, WARWICK 4370.

SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND, 25 ac in valley of the scenic rim. Lovely bush block with dam & bitumen road frontage. Electricity runs past front. Highway craft shop & shopping only short drive away. $40,000 (or swap for 6 ostriches 4 months or older, or 2 pregnant alpacas). Write: Shane, PO Box 496, WARWICK 4370.

RULES BEACH, 50 ac, 4 km to beach. Sheds, dam, 3/4 hr from Bundaberg. $39,000. Ph: 069-422-739.

NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY, between Warwick & Allora, 5 ac, 3 b/r, 1 en suite, extra 2 bathrooms/toilets. Hobby/rumpus rm, lge kitchen, combustion & elec stoves. Workshop, c/port, numerous beautiful Aust native trees. $100,000 ONO. Ph: 066-822-297.

INGHAM, NORTH QUEENSLAND, 3 b/r alum clad timber home. Phone, power & an abundance of good bore water. Set on 2 ac amongst a variety of estab exotic f/trees inc jak fruit, mangos, lychees, star apples, gramachanas, joboticabas, variety of citrus & many more. Only 20 km from Ingham & within 10 min walk from the mighty Herbert River, where you can catch barramundi, souty grunter & other species of fish. $60,000 ONO. Ph: 077-774-230, or 077-778-417.

GYMPIE, 57 ACRES forest seclusion, A-frame cottage, 240V, solar power, huge concrete tank, spring-fed dam, 15 min SE town, 40 min Noosa. $98,000. Ph: Paul, 018-770-090.

QUEENSLAND HINTERLAND, 50 ac in lake-front estate, glorious water & valley views. Love the water? Enjoy fishing, skiing etc, only short drive to beach & town. Must sell this week. $19,990. Ph: 071-531-825.

WEST OF GIN GIN, 35 ac in lush valley, perm crk, sheds, irrigation to organic orchards, estab house & vegie gardens. Approved temporary dwelling. Solar power & s/c/stove with HWS. $47,000 ONO. Ph: 071-563-509.

SUNSHINE COAST HINTERLAND, Kenilworth. Authentic Qlder in picturesque Mary Valley, 4 b/r, study, sunroom, rumpus/garage under. Solid T&G, elevated position, old estab garden, walk state/Christian schools. Tank/town water, sewerage, a/ground pool, fantastic park 1 km, PO. Private sale, photos avail. $129,000. Ph: 074-460-269.

RUSSELL ISLAND, 2 blocks, grow anything, very quiet, 5 min water. Only $7000 each. Ph: 066-897-246.

GRASSIFIEDS

PROPERTY FOR SALE
QUEENSLAND

EIGHT MILES CHARTERS TOWERS, 50 ac, 2 bores, 2 dams, jet pump, windmill (needs repairs), storage tank, piping, estab trees & garden, building materials. $40,000. John McKenzie, Box 2, CHARTERS TOWERS 4820

ST LAWRENCE, 2 b/r cottage on ½ ac with new planted citrus & mixed tropical fruits. Some furniture inc & all fittings. Needs a couple who have got a car to live here, not suitable single car-less person. Suitable person who likes fishing. $45,000. Ph: Jim, 079-569-294 w/ends.

GYMPIE, NORTH DEEP CREEK, 37 ac, mostly gum forest, 6 ac cleared, crk, dams, sml shed. $42,000. Ph: owner, 073-913-953.

MILES, TWENTY-FIVE ACRES, private elevated bush close to town, lge Colorbond shed with nicely appointed living facilities. Enclosed double c/port, 5000 gal tank & pump. Phone, power, sealed rd. $65,000 ONO. Ph: owner, 076-271-231.

QUEENSLAND HINTERLAND, serene self sufficiency, new brick home + sep guest accom, nestled amidst colorful gardens on pastured 32 ac mixed farm in picturesque valley. Irrigation from perm tree-lined sandy crk, dozens f/trees, yards, fully fenced 4 paddocks, poultry run, tractor, implements, pumps, mixed livestock, dish TV. $98,000. Ph: 071-531-825.

COOLOOLA SHIRE, 3 b/r home, o/fire, cork tiled t/out, Tasmanian oak kitchen, ½ ac, estab native garden, all amenities, 5 min Gympie, $98,000. Ph: 074-827-951.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND, 5 ac r/forest, partially cleared, perm water, all level ground, 35 min to tropical Mission Beach. Ideal potential highway market stall. $28,000. Ph: 070-665-659. Write: Dan, PO Box 91, MISSION BEACH 4854.

NEAR YEPPOON & international resort. Architect-designed, hilltop 2 storey house. Patios, balconies, 3-4 b/r, en suite, study, pool. Double garage, tractor, mains elec. On 31 secluded ac. Wildlife, timber, superb views. $169,000. No agents. Ph: 079-397-952.

250 QUIET BUSH ACRES, 3 b/r house near new, dble garage, dam, crks, close Childers, Bundaberg, beaches. Ph: 071-262-255.

PERMACULTURE LIFESTYLE, Sunshine Coast – Conondale. Sod roof, mud brick, grass & trees. Herbs, potatoes, flowers, bees. Two bed spaces, safe & warm. Cool verandahs face the dawn. Natural, healthy 20 acres. Kathryn waiting for the takers. $210,000. Maleny RE, 16 Maple St, MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-999-366, or 074-944-725 AH.

KENILWORTH/IMBIL, 94 ac deep soil, perm spring-fed dam & well. Machinery shed, l/u shed, c/van, sml cattle yards with crush, 7 paddocks with improved pastures. Area suit herb, fruit growing with some elevated areas suit pawpaws etc. Picturesque homesite overlooking Mary River. Electricity, ph, school bus at front gate. $160,000. Ph: owner, 074-417-195 after 6.30 pm.

500 METRES FROM O'BRIENS CREEK

To avoid disappointment ensure your ad meets our deadline

GEMFIELD, Mt Surprise nth Qld, 10,000 ac fossicking area at your doorstep, furnished home on 1 ac, crk frontage, sheds, humpy, mineral display, quiet lifestyle or unlimited potential, too much to list. $120,000. For full details, photos Ph: 070-625-241, or write: G.Broadway, C/- PO, MT SURPRISE 4871.

RUSSELL ISLAND, houseblock in high position. Fully serviced. Take advantage of an island lifestyle in beautiful Moreton Bay, less than 40 km from Brisbane. $18,000 ONO. Ph: 07-349-6204.

BRASSALL - IPSWICH (Brisbane West). One b/r miner's cottage, 9x4.5m mist-green Colorbond garage & sml garden shed on lovely high 1200sq m block in quiet street. Stand of she-oak trees & semi r/forest at back of block, est trees & shrubs everywhere. Fully fenced. Opposite lge bushland reserve, 1½ km to high & primary schools & shopping centre, 4 km Ipswich CBD, 25 min Brisbane CBD. Views of Ipswich over to Boonah Ranges if highset built. $72,000. Ph: 07-201-8128.

SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND. If you love wildlife & peacefulness, this property is definitely worth looking at. We have 5 bird aviaries overlooking a lge entertainment area, with estab gardens. Hundreds of beautiful birds visit the property every day giving this place a lovely atmosphere. This modern solid 3 b/r log and stone home is situated on 30 ac of partly cleared and fenced land, 20 min drive from town. The house has carpet & slate on the floors, & new aluminium doors & windows. Power, ph & septic is connected with a lge dam & 2 sheds & more. $70,000. Ph: 076-653-834.

FIFTY-THREE ACRES, 65 km west of Ingham. Comfortable cottage, power, ph, perm spring, bore, 2 ponds, crk frontage, 2 sheds, tractor w/ slasher, some fruit & nut trees. Idyllic setting, beautiful climate. $95,000. Ph: 077-775-160.

BUNDABERG, 750 sq m, fully serviced, residential block, 10 min to city, 10 min to beaches. $30,000 ONO. Lot 172, 'The Hummock', near Bargara. Ph: Ron, 02-603-9745 AH, or 02-600-4503 BH.

KINGAROY AREA, 40 ac bush block, fenced, ph, crk, dam, shed, trees, rocks, undulating land. $35,000. Ph: owner, 07-201-7426.

NANANGO, RUNNYMEADE Estate Rd, 5 ac, fully fenced, lge dam stocked with perch, cod, crays. Two sheds a) 12x20 ~/stove, fridge/freezer, beds, cupboards. b) 10x20 ft, 13 ft roof, loft, pull up shower recess & porta potty. New 500 gal tank. Rainforest/timber trees planted & estab. Nanango/Kingaroy 20 km. Electricity, ph, school bus at front gate. Good soil, picturesque property. $26,000. Ph: owner, 07-285-5597 AH.

MILLMERRAN, lge 4 b/r home on 20 fully fenced ac, huge kitchen, walk-in pantry, sunroom. New carpets & vinyl. Two x 5000 gal rainwater, lge dam for irrigation with 5 hp pump, new 20x20 Colorbond dble l/up garage, separate w/shop & c/port. Storage shed, SWQEB power. Phone, school bus 1 km, town 20 min, Toowoomba 70 min. Rates $260 p/a. $95,000 ONO. Ph: owner, 076-954-287.

MILLMERRAN, 20 fully fenced ac partly cleared. SWQEB power & ph available. $15,500 ONO. Ph: owner, 076-954-287.

FORTY ACRE FARM, partly cleared, 7 yr old, 3 b/r home, cupboards & pantry built in. Gas & wood stoves, gas fridge. Generator & solar lighting & house power. Double garage & c/port cemented, 3x5,000 gal cement tanks, water pumps, tractor, sawbench, slasher, 3 dams, all included. $107,500. Ph: 071-641-136.

VICTORIA

CHEAP START: BERRINGA, 30 min Ballarat, 17 ac undulating land, part bush. Great views over adj state forest & crk. Suit mud brick. Landscape Masterplan avail. $20,000. Ph: Adam, 053-332-978.

TOOTGAROOK, easy access Melbourne, services. Close bay, ocean. Seventeen sq, 4 b/r b/v, ducted gas heating. Fully fenced, terraced ⅓ ac. Three yrs of mulching, composting has created high yield, friable soil. Numerous fruit, citrus. Mains, tank water. $116,000. Ph: 059-856-141.

DANDENONG RANGES 1 hr Melbourne, ⅔ ac, 3 b/r cottage, bungalow, 2 sheds, c/port. Organic vegies, fruit, chooks, magnif trees & surrounds. $96,000. Trevor, 23 Lisheen Rd, COCKATOO 3781. Ph: 059-689-113.

TORRUMBARRY 4 b/r on 2 ac, Gunbower Creek, well treed, yabby dams, quiet retreat. $106,000. Ph: 054-871-555.

DEAR GR READERS here is a good chance to purchase land that offers so much. Clean running water, small pockets of semi-r/forest areas, an abundance of wildlife and surrounded by state forest. This property is 40 min from Bairnsdale on the beautiful headwaters of the Nicholson River. For the past 11 yrs the Nicholson River Co-op has developed into a diverse community with strong environmental values. I have built a mud brick/cedar home which is solar powered & has generator back-up. There is a sml house orchard & a further 250 cherry trees approaching cropping. Due to work commitments my family & I are forced to leave the area & are looking for like-minded people, who could enjoy the lifestyle that this property offers. Price $85,000 ONO. If anyone has any enquiries please contact Ray Dale, PO Box 725, BAIRNSDALE 3875. Ph: 051-564-275.

GRAMPIANS, 15 km nth of Dunkeld, 64 ac, redgum bushland bordering Grampians Nat Pk with views of Serra Range. All weather access rd, fenced & secluded. $35,000 ONO. Ph: 055-281-457.

HISTORICAL TARNAGULLA, 20 ac lightly treed, lge dam, power in pit on bndry, fenced, surrounded by bush & farm land, mtn views, 5 min from school and shops. $32,000. Ph: 079-276-693, or Smokey on 054-387-361.

WARBURTON, ¾ ac with 3 b/r & sunroom, b/veneer home. Modern kitchen, lge lounge, dining areas, 2 o/fireplaces, mtn views. Lush green flat block, c/port, shed, at the foot of Mt Donna Buang. Walk to shops, schools, fishing, pool, tennis, health centre, transport. Beautiful friendly town, 25 min from Lilydale. Ph: 018-173-284.

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

PROPERTY FOR SALE

VICTORIA

WEDDERBURN-GOLDFIELDS AREA, lovely 20 ac block, 1/2 cleared, 1/2 forest. Short distance from sealed rd. Has dam, fenced 3 sides. $15,000 ONO. Ph: 057-978-330.

EAST GIPPSLAND, VIC, partially renovated 3 b/r farmhouse on 7 ac perm crk, old orchard, new wiring, plumbing, tanks, ph. Twenty min Lakes Entrance, 20 min Orbost, quiet rural setting, good soil, good community. Ph: owner, 059-966-017.

SMEATON, 5 km out of town, as-new pine-lined miniature house, 4 sq on 1/3 ac of beautifully arable earth, fruit & shade trees. LP gas stove & heater, tankwater, well-fenced, 23 km from Daylesford right in middle of historic goldfields. $32,000. Ph: Kaye, 03-699-8922 BH.

GIPPSLAND LAKE, 15 min from Bairnsdale, 8 min from the lakes, 12 ha (30 ac), 16 sq home on solar power, lge dam, 9 paddocks, 8 with sheds. Price $140,000. Ph: 051-566-468 AH.

WATER, WATER, WATER, 24.87 ha of land (approx 60 ac): 15 ac (200 mgl) lake stocked with yellowbelly & catfish. Three b/r home & w/shop/sheds plus very separate 2 room cottage. Power to all 3 sites, ph. This block is set in natural bushland & has heaps of native animals & birds yet is only 15 min from Violet Town. The surrounding country is of a similar nature & the natives are friendly. The owner, John Mosig, has moved to Melbourne & can be contacted on 03-817-3043. He's asking $120,000.

ISOLATED GENOA RIVER FRONTAGE property, 152 ac. Two huge dams situated to gravity-feed approx 10 ac of rich river flats. Large dwellings at 2 locations, 1 not complete, the other liveable with solar power, ph at both locations. Creek running through property, some crk flats balance mixture of native bush. Ideal self-suff lifestyle. Vendor terms avail. Enquiries welcome. $110,000. Ph: 051-541-535.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CUMMINS, 2 b/r stone cottage, needs some work. Acre block, 19 f/trees, lge shed, garage, shadehouse. $20,000. K.Howard, 19 Ponton Grove, CUMMINS 5631. Ph: 086-862-489.

NEAR PORT PIRIE, GERVASE ROAD, Warnertown. Historical church (c 1907) previously St. Gervase Catholic church, 0.8 ha (approx 2 ac). Built of local stone, superbly renovated, 4 b/r, spiral stairs lead to 3 mezzanine b/rs each with a dormer window. There is an upstairs bathroom. Ground level: master b/r & en suite, huge dining/living area with island bar kitchen, lots of cupboards, potbelly heater, wind tunnel cooling system, 60 x 20 s/f garage, power connected, concrete floor. $159,000. Ph: 086-331-633. Weston Properties RE, Ellen St, PORT PIRIE 5540.

LAURA BLOCKS. Delightful old world charm cottage on 10 ac of land situated in a picturesque area. Home completely renovated & refurbished. Abundance of water as the Rocky River flows through + an equipped bore on 3 phase power, 30,000 gal of r/water storage. The property has a sound organic farming base with huge potential. Divided into 4 paddocks. Hunter River lucerne. Galvanised iron shed 40x35ft with power connected. Fruit trees & an old world garden complement this tranquil environment to reside in. Ph: 086-331-633. Weston Properties RE, Ellen St, PORT PIRIE 5540.

PORT GERMEIN. Peace & seclusion on this property, neat well presented home on approx 2.63 ha (approx 6.5 ac) of natural scrubland. Home has open space living, 3 b/r, modern tiled bathroom, 2 airconditioners, ceiling fan, combustion wood heater. Rear verandah fully enclosed, lge shadehouse with dripper system. Approx 12mx6.15mx3.69m (30x20x12ft high) shed with power, light, concrete floor. This unique property offers a complete relaxed lifestyle with its natural scrubland & birdlife. Ph: 086-331-633. Weston Properties RE, Ellen St, PORT PIRIE 5540.

TASMANIA

TWO SECLUDED BUSH BLOCKS on nth slopes of Mt Arthur, with view over most of NE Tas, 105 & 122 ac. Springs, r/forest, all timber, 10 min Lilydale, 30 min Launceston. $25,000 each. For more info contact: Merlin McArthur, PO Box 1279, LAUNCESTON 7250. Ph: 003-266-420, or 956-256.

ITINERANT OWNER – (details in GR 102) – looks like staying home 'cos he has bought the adjoining block. The offer of a half share in the property stands. For more info please ph: 003-622-751, or write PO Box 65, DELORAINE 7304.

D'ENTRACASTEAUX CHANNEL, 'GREEN PASTURES', 7 1/2 ac, organic, fertile, frost-free, diverse uses including early potatoes, income potential. Permanent water, out-buildings, 22 sq (including verandahs), 5 b/r brick house, all conveniences. School bus, tranquil, pollutant-free, majestic water views, 30 min Kingston. $138,000. Ph: 002-921-729, or 002-438-320.

MID-NORTH TASMANIA, 20 ac, 40 min Devonport, 30 min Cradle Mountain, r/forest & pasture, quiet, secluded, good views. Mud brick/stone/timber barn fitted temporary residence, woodstove, hot water, ph, school bus, 10 min shop. Access pure water. Good house sites. Low bushfire risk. $40,000. Ph: 004-921-189.

LADY BAY, SOUTHPORT, house & 25 ac, solar 240/12V powered. Views Bruny Is, f/trees & lge dam. $75,000 ONO. Ph: 002-279-390.

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM DEVONPORT & Cradle Mt. Sub-alpine high rainfall 'Manghelena' ('Rain') Sanctuary offers opportunity to buy 13 ac & new house next door ($100,000 – $130,000) & 1/4 partnership in 20 ac forest & waterfall. $50,000. Partner can live in for 2 yrs & build home on site or share rent 2 storey cedar home. Both opportunities invite you to live within fence of sanctuary & help develop endangered species sanctuary. Must be interested in people, backpackers & WWOOFers, & understand the importance of the natural environment. Lots of work here & must have own income. Ph: 004-921-310.

BEAUTIFUL BUSH BLOCK, coastal view NE Tas, excel potential, over 3 ha. $38,000. Contact: D.Ferris, C/- PO, COOGEE 2034

COMMUNITIES

TUNTABLE CREEK, 10 mins to Nimbin, hardwood home, 2 b/r sep kitchen, lge dining/lounge, pine lined, exposed beams, lge verandah, elec, perm water pumped to tanks. Fire hydrant, parking under house, garden shed. Suit family seeking yogic/permaculture lifestyle, willing to participate/communicate in dynamically evolving community. Situated on 1 1/2 ha on Young Road Community. $65,000. Ph: 066-216-076.

TWO AND A HALF ACRES as 1/6 share on 45 ac community. Garden shed, c/van, dam. Nimbin, Lismore area. $27,000. Ph: 066-245-738.

MUD BRICK SOLAR PASSIVE HOME, feature rock walls, 2.5 ac as 1/6 share on 45 ac community. Native forests, dam & bore, certified organic herb garden. Nimbin, Lismore area. $60,000. Ph: 066-245-738.

SEVEN FROST-FREE ACRES in 10 share community, 12 km Nimbin, c/approv. Sheds (one very comfortable living quarters with kitchen, laund/bath, decking), 2 house sites, cellar, elec start gen, pump, 12/240V solar system, ph, fenced, well watered, est garden & trees, views yet private. Seeking community minded people. $38,000. Ph: 066-891-548. PO Box 93, NIMBIN 2480.

LILLIFIELD COMMUNITY, 330 ac beautiful forested land in hills between Lismore & Murwillumbah, 20 min from Nimbin & 1 hr from coast, council approved MO. The land is owned by an incorporated company but each member has shares giving entitlement to about 5 ac for private use. Members also share 120 ac common land & use of tractor & other facilities. There are a few shares avail, mostly untouched sites. Price is from $19,300. A Steiner School adjoins the property, a small public school is 5 km away, with a bus at the property gate. Cats & dogs are not permitted. Please write: Lillifield, LILLIAN ROCK 2474, or Ph: 066-897-394, or 897-397.

NORTH QUEENSLAND, Daintree River surrounded by world heritage r/forest, 1/10 share 156 ac. Well constructed half-built home – liveable. Pure gravity-fed water. Private swimming holes. River access only. Lots of kids here. $35,000. D.Williams, PO Box 382, MOSSMAN 4873.

NIMBIN SIX KILOMETRES, comfortable 2-3 b/r house, studio 6x8m, adj nat pk, 12V & 240V, f/trees, 2 ac homesite, secure Company Title. $78,000. Ph: 066-895-035.

NIMBIN FIFTEEN KILOMETRES, 10 ac share, solar cottage, permaculture. For info write: Sophia Andrea, PO Box 254, NIMBIN 2480.

KYOGLE, 10 ACRE SHARE, 960 ac estab community, 2/3 b/r home, solar power (12V & 240V) & hot water, gas stove/fridge, s/c/stove, generator, dble carport, greenhouse, 2 sheds, perm spring, 2 pumps, 5 tanks, fenced yard, f/trees, privacy, waterfalls. $75,000. Ph: 066-333-246.

GRASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITIES

FIFTY ACRE SHARES approx, from $12,000. Coffs Harbour – Grafton. Secluded sandstone scrub, no power, 30 min nth Coffs Harbour. Subject to prior sale. Ph: 066-514-487, or 066-544-251 AH. PO Box 33, CORAMBA 2450.

CRYSTAL WATERS Permaculture Village, info kit, includes: booklet explaining community structure & bylaws, history, visiting, buying-in. Published article. Permaculture & related books, magazines & other products, courses. $7 postpaid to: Green Harvest, 52/6 Crystal Waters, MS 16, MALENY 4552.

NORTHERN NSW (45 km SE of Lismore): Share/owner built house on estab community – 500 ac of pristine forest, 12V/240AC standalone power system, 6000 gals water, borders Bundjalung Nat Pk, 45 min to Lismore. $55,000. Ph: 06-295-7806.

CRYSTAL WATERS Permaculture Village, 1 ac f/hold land and houses avail on this growing rural Group Title development, 500 ac of forested & arable common land for sustainable uses. Contact: K.Spencer, 24 Crystal Waters, MS 16, MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-725.

KYOGLE, 1/25 share in 960 ac, 10 ac share, f/trees, spring water, gravel access & privacy. $30,000. Ph: Tracey, 066-221-020, BH, 066-252-130 AH. PO Box 492, LISMORE 2480.

KOOKABURRA PARK ECO-VILLAGE, stage 1 sold out, 2nd stage selling fast. Freehold title to your lot + 360 ac owned in common. Underground services. Community hall & village lot. Twenty ac agricultural area. Two & a half km to town, schools, shops. Newsletter avail. For more info Ph: 071-531-303, or write to: Lot 3 Kookaburra Park M/S 368 GIN GIN 4671.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

NEEM TREE PLANTATION, invest in the 1st neem plantation in Australia; Gilbert River, Georgetown, nth Qld: 280 well estab trees at $90 per tree, enormous future potential for non-toxic insecticide. For details write: 'Investor' 3-11B Rickard St, BALGOWLAH 2093.

SNOWY RANGE TROUT FISHERY, Tasmania. Unique property & business. Trout Fishery & cattle property on 100 ac on the edge of the South West Conservation Area. Recently opened as trout fishery & stocked with rainbow trout. Denison River (tributary of Huon River) runs through the property. Micro-hydro-electric scheme has been running 7 years, supplies all power needs. Property has been chemical-free for 10 years. Small but comfortable house, 2 b/r, everhot stove, lge shed, extensive landscaping, 1 hr from Hobart. Great income earning potential in remote & beautiful surroundings. $260,000. Ph: 002-660-243.

WELDING BUSINESS, Mission Beach (1½ hr sth of Cairns). Suit self-motivated person, for this 1-2 person operation. Perfect access to the Great Barrier Reef, Dunk & the family group of Islands. Priced at $37,000 & SAV. Figures avail to genuine persons. Ph/fax: 070-687-448, BH.

VETERINARY PRACTICE in Maleny, estab 18 mths, suit GR type vet wanting to develop alternative side of practice. Surgery premises & attached residence avail for lease or f/hold sale. Ph: 074-943-966.

GRAMPIANS VICTORIA, holiday park, unique 40 ac bushland environment, man-made lakes with 2 near new high quality log cottages & 2 spacious cabins, powered & unpowered sites, redgum w/b residence on fish stocked lake. Vegetable garden, orchard, high growth rate last 2 years. $385,000, some finance possible. Ph: 053-836-304, or RMB 7371, WARTOOK 3401.

WHOLEFOOD CAFE & HEALTH FOOD SHOP – itching to get out of the city but don't know how you'll make a living? Your answer is 'The Jolly Cauli', a beautifully presented business in the main street of Coonabarabran, near the Warrumbungle Nat Pk in NW NSW. Good tourist & local trade. T/O $250,000 with good potential for increase. Long lease avail @ $220 pw. GR type people in the area. Large comfortable flat above shop avail to rent @ $110 pw. Price $77,000 ONO (incl equipment worth $57,000) + SAV. Ph: Robyn Keech or Tony Marx, 068-421-740, or 068-422-021, or fax: 068-422-754.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SHOP, NSW nth coast. Solahart & BP Solar dealership + heaters, stoves, bio-paints & more. Freehold premises. POA. Ph: 066-423-311 or 066-448-123.

'THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE SHOP' in Margaret River on the sth coast of WA is a very rare lifestyle/income opportunity. Offering a vast range of products incl nontoxic paints, skin care products, recycled stationary, organic fertilisers & solar lighting to name just a few. Showing good returns with a long lease this is a new shop in brilliant location next to local markets. Ph: Michelle Short, 097-576-223 AH, or, Margaret River Real Estate, 097-573-008 all hours.

PROPERTY WANTED

ACREAGE SUITABLE TO START COMMUNITY, perm water essen. Part cleared, dwelling an advantage. Possibly Gin Gin/Bundaberg area. Would consider other places including share. Not too expensive. 64 Cypress St, TORQUAY 4655. Ph: 071-253-271.

LOOKING FOR SA PROPERTY from Kingston to MacDonnell, shedding or studio space, livable property. Please send photo of property. Can make good deposit, but still need some vendor finance, 5 ac +, no Wimmera types. Will respond to all info. Contact: 018-581-695, or Terry: GPO 5015Y, MELBOURNE 3000.

MATURE, RESPONSIBLE COUPLE interested in receiving info on the following in STD areas 043, 049 & 065 only: Land without dwelling, but council approved to build, with 2-wheel access, power & ph, up to $15,000; land & solid dwelling on large block, up to $50,000; lease with option to buy, as above; and, title within larger acreages. Must have trees and birds. Please send details, including DP number, mud map and photo, if possible. Hazel Lloyd, 124 Glenrock Parade, KOOLEWONG 2256.

ACRE BUSH BLOCK, Advance Town, Lower Beechmont area, with power. Ph: Wayne, 075-960-145.

SECLUDED TIMBERED ACRES on river, swamp, dam, with 2 b/r home (mud brick) in NE Vic. To $120,000. Ph: 057-282-613.

ACRES, NEAR COASTAL TOWN (NSW), suitable perm living, up to $50,000, or with livable accom up to $70,000. Ph: 02-759-2531.

WOMAN AND MOTHER (in wheelchair) wanting to buy 10 ac r/forest (Qld), to build several cabins. Must have stream/creek non-4WD access. Video appreciated & returned. Cash deal. Ph: 075-728-380.

FOR RENT

RETIRED COUPLE OR GENTLEMAN needed to caretake acreage 90 min from coast on Tablelands above Taree, NSW. Minimum rent in return for general maintenance work. Genuine enquiries only, refs requested. Ph: 065-533-045.

WANTED, RELIABLE QUIET middle-aged couple, to rent clean 3 b/r house 5 min walk to centre large country town in Wimmera. Good backyard & shed. $100 rent + bond. Ref required. Avail July. Ph: 054-653-411 (7.30 pm).

SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND, approx 30 ac, magnif setting, lots of natural bush, bitumen rd frontage, very well fenced. Power runs past front of property. Craft shop nearby. Newly constructed 8 window shed with 2 lge sliding glass doors & concrete floor & verandahs. Excellent drinking water. Consider renting very cheaply to environmentally aware person(s), or who have an interest in organic gardening or permaculture; or perhaps you have a suggestion for your free use for our mutual benefit. Write: Shane, PO Box 496, WARWICK 4370.

TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE in peaceful forest setting, only 10 min beaches, near Wilsons Promontory. Wildlife, chooks, vegie garden, solar, wood, gas. Avail June-Nov '94. $100 pw. Suit energy conscious person or couple. Ph: 056-832-213.

SMALL HOUSE, c/port, sheds, garden, chook house, ph, water, elec. $35 plus bond. Ph: 086-752-149. Copley 5732.

SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND, 20 miles nth of Toowoomba, on bit rd. Tank water & spring water. Comfortable cottage with est garden needing TLC, wood stove & potbelly, elec HWS, shower & bathrooms. Some furniture. All for $50 rent most of which goes back to cottage, minus tax. Please no short-termers. Ph: 076-979-237.

SHARE WITH OWNER, 8 ac river flat pasture, 12 ac eucalypt bush, river with trout, 2 b/r house with all mod cons (GR style). Quiet back rd, though only 6 min to town. Rent neg in return for help in planting things. Interested? Ph: 003-622-751, or write: PO Box 65, DELORAINE 7304.

WANTED TO RENT

NEEDED TO RENT, perm house/land, nth NSW or Noosa Hinterlands. Eden Cody, C/- 4 Carmen Close, MARYBOROUGH 4650.

PLACING AN AD?
See page 67 for details

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

WANTED TO RENT

LONG-TERM RENTAL/CARETAKER home wanted, 50 km rdius Toowoomba. Prefer rural, with land? One adult 40s, son 16 doing yr 11. I study photography. Urgent, End May '94. Ph: 003-695-343 after 5. Dianne, RSD 886, Montana, DELORAINE 7304.

HOUSE TO RENT for Christmas, or land for camping. Large widespread family want to meet for Christmas in the Ballina-Lismore area.. Either beach or bush we love & respect. Annie Hays, Colling Rd, ELANDS 2429.

BELLINGEN/COFFS AREA, honest reliable, n/smoking couple with baby, experienced in building, house maintenance & gardening, seek caretaking or rental opport from approx July/ Aug '94. Short-term OK. Refs avail. Please contact Paul & Robyn: 07-368-4931. 36 Balmain Tce, RED HILL 4059.

HOME S/W SLOPES/PLAINS, late '94, adult & 3 kids, dog, 2 desexed cats. Senior high access. Handy person, capable, honest, assist someone needing help, a break, or expanding ventures. Earth mender, open to suggestions regarding mutually beneficial arrangement. Ph: 06-247-1874 reverse charges, or leave contact number. Refs avail. Alternative contact: Barradine, 068-434-410.

GR LADY LOOKING for lge rental house, situated near Burnie Tasmania. Love to caretake lge or sml acreage with or without stock for long-term rental, caring tenant (environmentalist). Unsure of exactly when I will be there, but by December '94. Ph: 074-262-132, or write: 121 Prospect St, LOWOOD 4311.

LAND WANTED, young artists interested in alternative lifestyle to caretake or rent. Ph: Kylee, 03-789-3846.

RENT OR CARETAKE property required for responsible person committed to organic gardening. Please write: 'Christian' (GR 103), PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

ON SUNSHINE COAST, couple need house/ livable shed, preferably on acreage. In August. Will pay up to $130 wk. Ph: Jillian, 075-349-161.

WANTED

NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS. Wattle blossom, gum nuts, etc. All types, fully dried, native materials considered. Large quantities preferred. Good prices plus freight paid. Contact: Peter Hunt, PO Box 53, NORTHCOTE 3070. Ph: 03-482-2677.

BLUE WORMS 'Spenceriella' wanted. Please contact: Harwood, PO, CHIDLOW 6556.

INFORMATION WANTED from sufferers of Ulcerative Colitis regarding initial occurrence, remissions, hints on management. Write to: Keryn, C/- 213 Cobbitty Rd, COBBITTY 2570.

POSITION WANTED, housekeeping on country property, by lady 46, has own furniture & 3 cats. Will relocate. Ph: 059-866-287.

PERSON (30s) REQUIRED TO SHARE 2 b/r unit with 1 male. Situated sth coast of NSW. Own bathroom, garage, furnished. Write: Box 465, 442 Pitt St, SYDNEY 2000.

COUPLE UNDER 40 with own accom, live rent-free on 40 ac in return help around property. No power or phone, 45 km nth of Gin Gin, Qld. M & D Clayton, 'Minbalup', MS 105, LOWMEAD 4676.

SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE LADY about 70 yrs, wishes to holiday in Aust for 3-4 mths, requires accom from July or Sept, in or near Buderim, Qld. Willing to help in home duties, If able to help please write: L Polley, 3/7 Besley St, BUDERIM 4556.

HOUSESITTER(S) WANTED. I'm looking for a keen gardener to caretake my ½ ac heaven in SA. Isolated, ph, elec, outdoor dunny. Very quiet. School bus at door. Please call: Paul or Annie, 088-464-022.

MISCELLANEOUS

NATURAL SOAP & laundry powders avail. Soap $1.50 each, powder $5.00 kg, postage $5.00. Soap: lavender, sandalwood, tea-tree, unscented, almond & oatmeal wilderness. Ph: 063-617-477, fax: 063-617-151.

CEMENT BLOCK MOULD for sale. Instant block major from Forest Farm Research Station, makes solid or hollow, 400x300x150mm. Also ½ and ¾ blocks. Cost $445, will sell $350 ONO. Ph: 049-964-504.

GLIMOCRA LOOM 130 with damask puller, books, heddles, shuttles, temples etc. VGC. Lot $1500. Ph: 071-277-150.

BACK ISSUES GR, 41 issues (mainly 43-84), $80 plus postage. EG 27-52 (less 5), $40 plus postage. Jim Gauld, PO Box 35, PENGUIN, 7316. Ph: 004-371-478.

AYLWEN GARDEN – DRIED HERBS, teas and potpourri supplies. All grown and packed in Canberra. Send SAE for price list. AYLWEN GARDEN, 54 Denovan Circuit, CALWELL, ACT 2905.

NOOSA HINTERLAND/SUNSHINE COAST. New Kane Real Estate Cooroy, If you want to buy or sell in the hinterland give us a call. All enq welcome. Contact Gwen Morton on: 074-476-988 A/H, 074-854-291, or 015-130-432.

SECOND-HAND CORRUGATED ROOFING iron, approx 200, $2.50 each. 12 steel gable roof truss, 4m long, $25 each. Kero fridge $300. Parts of solar hot water system. Instant gas hot water heater $250. Plus more. Peter Horsnell, Ph: 043-422-027.

WOODSTOVE, 1930s, Grahame, great cooking & warmth. $350 ONO. Ph: 042-716-546,

WORLDWIDE COMING EVENTS revealed in dreams & visions info. Write: L Polley, 3/7 Besley St, BUDERIM, 4556, or Ph: 074-671-183.

HEALTH BOOKS, activated charcoal powder, Celtic sea salt avail, also natural therapies. PO Box 371, Childers 4660. Ph: 071-262-255.

PERSONAL DEODORANT CRYSTALS, natural aluminium-free deodorant, effective and economical, $9 plus $2.40 p&p for 60g polished crystal. Murray Secomb, GR, Darlington Park, PO Box 41, CORINDI 2456. Ph: 066-491-271.

COONBON – GIBBER wood heaters, Will burn for days w/out going out and heat large areas. $375 freight-free to your door. No assembly required. For more info: Dave, 14 Sixth Ave, CHELTENHAM, 5014.

ESSENTIAL OILS, order by mail! Wide range of aromatherapy grade oils, in brilliant blue or amber (12ml) bottles. Use them for gifts, healing or pleasure, to scent a bath, enhance your mood, relax your partner. Write: Trusaire #6, PO Box 107, Forestville 2087, for free mail order catalogue. Ph: Cate or Stefan, 02-452-3105.

HERBS HERBS HERBS, capsules & bulk for home & practitioner use. Over 130 foundation & single herbs. Incomparable quality control. No harmful chemicals or pesticides. Designer quality control equipment & procedures. Other health & nutritional supplements avail, also new designer natural skin care & natural glamour make-up. Please feel free to write for no-obligation, free, nutritional information. Please include all relevant info for specific needs. LIFE FORCE FOODS, C/- PO, NEW FARM 4005. Ph: 07-358-3909.

THE BEST OF AUSTRALIAN BUSH BALLADS. This outstanding collection of 2 stereo cassettes will give you hours of fun & joy. Shake away the blues, it's time for your dancing shoes. For FREE details send 1x45c stamp in SAE to: Aurora Australias Direct, Music Dept, PO Box 477-G4, SEAFORD, 3198.

IMPROVED HEALTH through optimum nutrition. Products for: immune strengthening, improved circulation, sleeping disorders, weight loss/gain, increasing energy. Relieves: asthma allergies, arthritis, blood pressure, cholesterol, migraines, stress, sugar levels, skin disorders. No drugs, no medication, no risk. For information & products contact: Anne Maree & Eddie Higham, 059-744-268,.

ALADDIN OIL LAMPS, a high quality kerosene lamp giving 60 watts of white light, non-pressure type, no smell, smoke or noise. Ideal for people without power, blackouts, or if you would simply like a special lamp for the dining room table. Available in brass, glass and a hanging lamp from $89. We also have a range of other kerosene lamps including Duplex lamps from England and brass and glass lamps from $25. Glass shades, chimes, wicks and parts are avail for Aladdin and various other lamps. If you would like to view some of our lamps and catalogue please call into the Crispy Inn Bread Shop, 210 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn, NSW, open 7 days, or contact: John Gannon, Aladdin Oil Lamps Australia, PO Box 65, BROOKLYN, 2083. Ph/fax: 02-985-9013.

HORSE DRAWN HAY MOWER, good condition $500. Poettinger MEX II K maize forage harvester, single row fine cut, A1 condition. $6,800. Putzmeister piston pump, PKM electric 3 phase 1m²/3min complete hose and gun suitable plastering mud bricks $15,400. Ph/ fax: 074-852-693 AH.

THE WORLD'S BEST AUTOMATIC MOUSETRAP. No poison or bait needed. Catch up to 20 mice each setting, rugged metal construction, simple to set by winding spring. Priced at $45 + $5 postage, anywhere in Australia. R A Williams, 5 Bonnie Springs Rd, JINDERA 2542. Ph: 060-263-621.

GRASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

PEEPERS – BANDICOOT RANGE of fitted cloth nappies & wool pilchers. Proudly designed & made in Australia. Write for a free catalogue to: PO Box 54, MENTONE 3194, or ph: 03-587-0159, or 015-526-306, or 1800-814-180. If you have trouble reaching us, please keep trying. There is a fault with our phone lines which Telecom is working to fix.

HANDMADE SOAP, CREAMS, salves, candles, using Australian oils. Over 30 different products, resellers welcome. SAE to: Forest Edge, 242 Albert St, MARYBOROUGH 4650.

CHIP HEATERS. No elec needed for instant hot water, operates from town or tank water supply. Enq: Ray Williams, 5 Bonnie Springs Rd, JINDERA 2642. Ph: 060-263-621.

AUSTRIAN LEAD CRYSTALS. The original rainbow generators, finest quality crystals, 38 shapes incl spheres, teardrops, pendulums, octagons, hearts & more. Hang in sunny windows for dancing spectrum rainbows. Send SAE for catalogue. Wholesale enquiries welcome from shops & marketeers. Thora Trading, 'Patanga', Darkwood Rd, THORA 2454. Ph: 066-558-668.

'THE HOMEBUILT DYNAMO' (construction plans). Brushless electric generator, 1000 watt DC at 740 RPM. A$85 postpaid airmail from: Al Forbes, Box 3919-GR, Auckland, New Zealand. Ph: 0011-649-818-8967 anytime. Philips Ferroxdure rotor magnets (3700 gauss) kit - now avail cut to size & magnetised.

CHARCOAL POWDER. As a remedy, activated charcoal is a number 1: 500 g - $8 + $6.50 postage, 1 kg - $15.50 +$10 postage. Directions included. Cedarvale Health Ctr, 2999 Mossvale Rd, FITZROY FALLS 2577.

SOLAR, WIND, HYDRO, complete systems or components, design & installation. For info & advice contact: Geoff Collins, Lateral Technology, est 1987, Member SEIAA. Ph: 051-681-224. PO Box 674, MOE (Gippsland) 3825.

NATURAL SKINCARE: Soaps, creams, salves using Australian botanicals. Handmade scented candles. Resellers welcome, SAE to: Forest Edge, 242 Albert St, MARYBOROUGH 4650.

MOTORS, PERMANENT MAGNET and coil wound for 12 v and 24 v systems. Build your own wind or water generators. convert washing machines etc. For info send SAE, outline intended use, to: Windward Power Systems, PO Box 261, Albert St Post Office, BRISBANE 4002. Or call 018-879-072.

WIND GENERATORS, start charging at 4 knots, 12 amps at 25 knots. Fully equipped. Money back guarantee. From $785. Send SAE for free brochure to: Windward Power System, PO Box 261, Albert St Post Office, BRISBANE 4002. Or call 018-879-072.

MAIL ORDER – DOG COLLARS, All sizes, for pup to pig-dogs, studded or plain. For price list write (including SAE): Brooloo Leatherworks, PO Box 8, IMBIL 4570. Ph: 074-845-381.

PLACING AN AD?
See page 67 for details

To avoid disappointment ensure your ad meets our deadline

HANDCRAFTS

POTPOURRI STARTER KITS, herbal soap kits, raffia hat kits, gilding kits, pressed flower kits, silk painting kits, plus a full range of associated supplies, botanicals, fixatives, fragrant oils, accessories, etc are all listed in our new 'Kits & Crafts' Catalogue. For your copy please send a business-size SAE to: Moonlight Fragrant Supplies, PO Box 684G, MT WAVERLEY 3149.

NATURALLY WILDE HERBAL SKINCARE. Simple, economical, environmentally friendly skin care; everything from soap to face packs, all based on aromatherapy principle. For a free brochure full of yummy creams, lotions & potions, send a business-sized SAE to: Naturally Wilde, PO Box 380, ELTHAM, 3095.

ARTISTS, POTTERS, GLASSBLOWERS, jewellers, sculptors – anyone that would like to display their works for sale, please write: Kaleidoscope Gallery, PO Box 223, DRYSDALE, 3222. Ph: 052-532-232.

NATURAL SOAP and laundry powders avail. Soap $1.50 each, powder $5 kg, postage $5. Soap: lavender, sandalwood, tea-tree, unscented almond and oatmeal wilderness. Ph: 063-617-477, fax: 063-617-151.

PATCHWORK SKIRTS, applique tops, Edwardian and Victorian nightgowns, recycled and painted timbers, Australian pottery and chimes, children's and babies' wear. All goods completely 100% Australian made and only best quality materials used. Send for your free mail order catalogue to: Cherrywood Crafts, PO Box 6133, Dural Del Centre, 2158. Ph: 02-875-3980.

WIDDERSHINS ORIGINAL hand made jewellery. Wholesale price list now avail. Ideal for market stallholders, fashion shops etc. PO Box 213, MOONTA 5558. Ph/fax: 088-253-453.

AAAAAAA/FRAGRANT CRAFT SUPPLIES direct from source - potpourris (botanical & gemstone), fragrances (incl similar to Chanel, Opium etc), botanicals (roses, lavender, orris, etc), books, fragrant gifts, etc. We supply from beginner to chain store with great quality products at prices as low as $14.40/kg (potpourri), $26.40/kg (fragrances). Write for free mail order catalogue or visit our extensive, centrally located showroom/factory outlet. Nature's Workshop, PO Box 53, NORTHCOTE 3070. Ph: 03-482-2677. Fax: 03-481-1393.

ESSENTIAL OILS, POTPOURRI & natural products - for all your aromatherapy & fragrant craft work. We are the manufacturers & suppliers of raw materials for making massage oils, soaps, cosmetics & household products. Our extensive range includes: 100% pure & natural essential oils, absolutes, fragrances, vegetable oils, gums, waxes, extracts, potpourri, herbs, spices, pottery & containers. Buy from us direct, small or bulk sizes & save with our low prices. Write for free mail order catalogue to: Auroma, 39 Melverton Dve, HALLAM 3803. Ph: 03-796-4833. Fax: 03-796-4966.

THREAD BUNDLES, Stranded cotton in bundles of 100, 8 m skeins in assorted colours, $29 post-free in Aust. Bankcard, Mastercard, Visa, money orders & chqs. Excel buys for schools, weavers & needleworkers. Arty & Crafty, PO Box 40, DAW PARK 5041.

WEAVING LOOMS. Lightweight 20 cm (8 in), 4 shaft sample loom specially designed for students, advanced weavers. Fully assembled with 4 reeds. 8, 10, 12, 15 dent. $135 + postage/freight. Arty & Crafty, PO Box 40, DAW PARK 5041.

RAINBOW CRYSTALS – JEWELLERY & window hangings. Specialising in lead crystals. Wholesale enq welcome. Send long SAE to: Crystals & Jewellery by Lorraine, RMB 2880, via MYRTLEFORD 3737. Ph: 057-535-268, mobile 018-577-094.

CANDLES, WIDE VARIETY of long lasting, perfumed & insect repellant candles avail. Prices for trade or personal use on request. Mail today for price list: Candles, 1575 Portarlington Rd, DRYSDALE 3222. Ph: 052-531-315. Fax: 052-562-417.

FOOD AND KITCHEN

GROWER DIRECT: LEVEL 'A' organic produce. Experience quality, freshness, *real* taste, at reasonable cost. Wide variety avail. Same day harvest to homes within 15km radius Melbourne GPO presently. Enquiries invited. Ph: 053-871-358.

POLLEN, no additives. 450 g sample pack $9, 1.9 kg pack $32.50, 4.7 kg pack $65, 14 kg drum $175. Prices include p&p. J M Read, 8 River St, MURRAY BRIDGE 5253.

HOME STONE FLOUR MILLS – mill your own stoneground wholemeal flour for cakes & bread at home with a Retsel Little Ark stone flour mill. Endorsed by Housewives Assoc. Write for catalogue to: Retsel Distributors, PO Box 712, DANDENONG 3175, encl 3 postage stamps. Ph: 03-795-2725. Distributor enquiries welcome.

QUEENSLAND MAIL ORDER, Macadamia Nuts – raw, roasted, chocolate coated, cosmetics and much more. For free product list write to: Nellies' Nuts, PO Box [illegible], GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS 4518.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD

TREEGUARDS all shapes/sizes from under 10 cents each. Bamboo stakes & weedmats. International Reforestation Supplies. RMB 8600, BAIRNSDALE 3875. Ph/fax: 051-579-404.

AYLWEN GARDEN: Over 500 varieties of herbs, perennials and shrubs avail by mail order. Send $5.00 (refundable) for large descriptive catalogue. Aylwen Garden, 54 Donovan Circuit, CALWELL 2905.

FRUIT SPIRIT BOTANICAL GARDENS, 8 page unique list of seed and plant material for more than 400 species of ethnobotanicals: fruits, nuts, bamboo, gingers, forestry etc. Grown on site. Send 4x45c stamps to: Fruit Spirit, DORROUGHBY 2480.

BAMBOO PLANTS, running or clumping, 140 species for all uses. Send $4.50 in stamps for catalogue: Bamboo Australia, Kenilworth Rd, EUMUNDI 4562.

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

GARDEN AND ORCHARD

NEW FREE CATALOGUE: For our 1994-5 Free Catalogue of the most up to date Australian organic gardening, farming & lifestyle tools and gardening supplies ph: 051-271-051, or write to: Full Circle Organics, PO Box 146, MOE 3825. We're long-time organic gardeners who can help you grow – naturally.

WHITE POTATO ONIONS, $1.00 ea. Rare Blue hope, $7.00 ea or 4 for $20.00. Tree Onions 50c ea; $3 p&h per parcel. Lindsay Morris, Old Blackwood Rd, TRENTHAM 3458. Ph: 054-241-434.

GIANT VEGETABLE SEEDS. Atlantic Seeds have currently in stock giant pumpkin, squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, carrot, radish, plus many other. Send SAE to: PO Box 205, Seaford 3198, for full price list. Ph/fax: 03-786-0337.

100 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR GARDEN. This FREE catalogue is packed full of the best organic gardening supplies. Categories include: natural fertilisers, organic gardening books, least toxic pest management, high quality tools, seeds for soil improvement & natural pest control. All products guaranteed and delivered anywhere in Australia. Green Harvest, 52/G Crystal Waters Permaculture Village, MS 16, MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-676.

HERBS, PERENNIALS, SHRUBS, over 600 varieties avail by mail order. All plants $2 ea. Send 3x45c stamps for list to: Flowers, Leaves & Spines, RMB 2743, MARYBOROUGH 3465. Ph: 054-614-390.

GOURD SEEDS, mixed ornamentals, mixed hardshells, mixed orn + hardshells, luffa sponge, calabash, snake bean, bottle medium, $4.50 pkt – minimum purchase $9.00. Or 1 free $4.50 pkt when you purchase 52 page *Gourd Growers Handbook* for $16. Bulk pkts – 30 seeds $10 ea. All prices incl postage. Send your order to: Gourd Father Quality Gourd Products, PO Box 38/GR EAST MAITLAND 2323. Money back guarantee! Ph: 049-336-624.

COMPANION PLANTING CHART. Over 90 vegetables, herbs & fruits, including plants as insect repellants. SOW WHEN CHART. Suggested sowing times for 100 vegetables, herbs and flowers. Mail Order $5.00 ea plus $2.50 p&p (up to five copies). Plum Products (G) RMB 2907, BRUTHEN 3885.

EARTHWORMS, the 'speedy breeder compost worm' revolutionises your compost & transforms your garden. Just $15 per 1000 worms. Price includes postage Aust wide & pamphlet on worm care. Wholesale prices $40 per kg. Wormborough Farm, PO Box 794, TAREE 2430. Ph: 065-539-633.

SEEDS OF UNUSUAL, useful Asian vegies, subtropical fruits, herbs, spices, fragrants, curiosities, cottage garden flowers suit hot weather. Open pollinated. Easy grow seeds, $1 pkt, plants $2.50 ea. Mail order only, no visitors please. For list send 3 stamps to: Lorraine Blaney, Wallace Rd, BEACHMERE 4510

COMPREHENSIVE CATALOGUE Australian native seeds, 1800 species. Price $6 posted. Bliss Partnership, 'The Cedars', BUNDARRA 2359.

BOOK *Absolutely Delicious Licorice*, complete guide to growing and using, by Isabell Shipard $7. Extensive range culinary & medicinal herbs, spices, Asian vegetables, rare edibles, nonhybrid seeds. For mail order catalogue, info articles send 10x45c stamps to: Shipards' Herb Farm, Box 66, NAMBOUR 4560.

EARTHWORMS, IMPROVE your soil providing healthier plants, crops & FREE fertiliser. Contact us for FREE info on worms, breeder kits & the most comprehensive publication list avail on this subject. WORM WORLD, PO Box 14GR, NORTH CAIRNS 4870. Ph/fax: 070-581-891.

TOBACCO SEED. Organically grown (Virginian), cultivation & curing notes incl. Send $5 to Lyn O'Brien, C/- PO, BARMAH 3639.

'AUSTRALIAN HERB INDUSTRY Resource Guide'. For the first time in Australia, a comprehensive networking guide for professional & recreational herb growers & users, or anyone who needs to find anything herbal – plants, seeds, courses, publications, herbal products, essential oils and craft materials, display gardens, fresh-cut & dried herbs, societies & more. Cost $15 plus $3.50 p&h from 'Focus on Herbs' consultancy, PO Box 203, LAUNCESTON 7250.

EARTHWORMS for soil improvement $15/1000. Includes care instructions and postage Australia wide. Squworms Worm Farm (GR), The Gorge, FINCH HATTON 4756. Ph: 079-583-359.

'NEW ORGANIC RESOURCE GUIDE' – Everything you need to know about everyone in the organic industry. A must for those with the first one. Order NORG and get a free copy of the first resource guide, $6 posted. *Seed Production For The Home Vegetable Garden*, A Barry: Our best seller, great for the new gardeners who want to save seeds but are not sure how, $4.00 posted from: The Henry Doubleday Research Association, Mr Phil Hirst, 77 Gross Vale Rd, NORTH RICHMOND 2754.

COURSES

SELF-RELIANCE COURSE. This permaculture course will provide you with practical skills, techniques and info to create your own productive and low maintenance property. Topics covered: design, species selection, establishment and integration of vegetable gardens, orchards, tree crops, dams, healthy & energy efficient homes. Learn at Crystal Waters Permaculture Village through tours, demonstrations, hands-on practice, slides and talks by Frances Lang and Max Lindegger, tutors of over 2500 people in 15 countries. Dates: September 18-October 1. October 30-November 12. January 8-21. Free info kit: Green Harvest, 52/G Crystal Waters, MS 16 MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-676.

MUD BRICK COURSES, weekend, intensive, theoretical/practical, $130 incl food. More info: Earthways, WOLLOMBI 2325.

MAKE YOUR HOME GREENER, make positive changes to the environment, landcare planning & bush regeneration. Hands-on workshops on these & related topics, run by: Apace Green Skills, 1 Johannah St, Nth FREMANTLE 6159. Ph: Chris Baillie, 09-336-1033.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN course for temperate regions of Australia. Venue: 'Willuna' Chiltern, NE Victoria. Tutors: Vries & Hugh Gravestein. Time: Sept 30-Oct 10, 1994. Fully certified courses, accom & all practical demonstrations on property. For info re cost etc, write with SAE to: V Gravestein, RMB 1130, CHILTERN 3683. Due to heavy demand early booking is suggested. We limit the classes to 20 students for satisfactory tuition.

DOWSING, a definitive home-study course in radiesthesia, dowsing and radionics for those with enquiring minds! Rediscover the lost art of using natural radiations ecologically. Over 200 pages of comprehensive notes covering health, environmental and agricultural applications of this ancient art. The Academy of Natural Therapies, 23 Taree St, BURLEIGH HEADS 4220. Ph: 075-934-650. Phone or write for a free brochure.

CORRESPONDENCE STUDIES. Diploma & certificate programmes, professionally recognised. Learn for personal interest or business practice. Select one brochure from, Aromatherapy, Vitamin & Nutrition Therapy, Traditional Folk Medicine, Animal Medicine (The 'Green' Vet), Pyschic Healing, Pre-school Childcare (Nanny-minder), Safety & Security Counselling, personal Psychic Development, Traditional Wicca. Wiccan Home Studies, PO Box 138, SURRY HILLS 2010. Ph: 02-319-6166 bus hrs only.

PERMACULTURE DESIGN course, far sth coast NSW. Specific to cool temperate systems species and strategies. Fourteen day residential course. This course is rich in practical involvement with excel local examples to be visited. November 19-December 3. Tutors: Hugh Gravestein, Andrew Sheridan. Register as soon as possible, limit of 20 per course. Enquiries welcome: H Gravestien, C/- PO, WYNDHAM 2550. Ph: 064-942-014. Weekend introductory courses – May, Sept, Nov.

HUNTER-NEWCASTLE PERMACULTURE courses at permaculture demonstration farm. Living alternatives with urban and rural applications. Participants' own situations incorporated into course materials. For info ph: June Andersen, Trevallyn Permaculture Centre, 049-389-528, PO Box 22, PATERSON 2421.

LIVESTOCK

PET'S CARE – NOW AVAILABLE, an ALL NATURAL, carefully balanced vitamin and mineral supplement, designed to aid in the control of fleas & flea bite dermatitis. The healing properties of Pet's Care also improve general condition & strengthen the immune system. As no chemicals are involved, Pet's Care has no harmful side effects on animals or humans. Don't poison your pet to control fleas, send $10.35 for a seven week supply of Pet's Care. Happy Pet Products, 717 Pipers Creek Road, Dondingalong, KEMPSEY 2440, or for more info ph or fax: 065-669-325.

GRASSIFIEDS

If you doubt the wisdom of replying to any ad – trust your intuition.

LIVESTOCK

TRANSYLVANIAN NAKED NECKS – laying hens & pullets wanted, preferably in Sydney area. Call Paul on: 02-627-3798.

MAREMMA STOCK PROTECTION DOGS. Good working stock & family dogs. Bond with goats, sheep, poultry, etc and end predator problems. Pups avail now. Ph: 051-550-275.

PURE WHITE ANGORA rabbits, 6-8 wks old. $25 each. Ph: 063-733-691.

RARE, OUTDOOR PIGS. Wessex Saddleback, weaners & breeding stock available. Contact E & H Clare, PO Box 546, CABOOLTURE 4510. Ph: 074-968-271.

HOLIDAYS

LOOKING FOR MORE MEANING in your life? Women are invited to stay at our rural property one week during October, 2-17. Explore prayer, crafts. Rest and refreshment. Food/accom free. Apply: Sister Helen, Sisters Of The Church (Anglican), 42 Wirrang Drive, Dondingalong via KEMPSEY 2440.

HOMESTAY AT CRYSTAL WATERS Permaculture village, guided tours of the first community designed according to the principles of permaculture. K Spencer, 24 Crystal Waters, MS 16, MALENY 4552. Ph: 074-944-725.

NATURAL HEALTH rejuvenation haven. Situated in a quiet rural bushland setting in the foothills of the Border Ranges of nthn NSW. Featuring: healthy lifestyle education, nutritional instruction, food preparation, vegan dishes, raw juice cleanse & detoxification programme, colonic therapy, steam baths, ensuited bedrooms, comfortable accom. The Retreat, GREVILLIA 2474. Ph: 066-364-275.

GETAWAY TO VICTORIA'S FIRST eco-Solar Retreat. Peaceful secluded cosy cabin accom set amongst 6 ac of natural native gardens. Solar power and pure underground water. Kangaroos search for food amongst the adj olive plantation. Blue wrens, honeyeaters and many other birdlife at arms reach. Clean air, crystal clear skies and rosy sunsets await the seeker of a revitalized lifestyle. Enjoy the outdoors – fishing, bushwalking, or just sit on the timber railed verandah sipping a glass of wine, watching the blue wren feeding on the lush lawn. Private BBQ. Linen provided. Where is this secret hideaway? Whispering Pines Retreat, Little Desert Nat Pk, via Dimboola. Phone for brochure: 053-891-122, or 053-891-847. Bookings for 2 nights receive a free picnic lunch basket to enjoy.

SERVICES OFFERED

ASTROLOGER/HERBALIST. I will answer your personal questions re: health, natural remedies, compatibility, fertility, where to live, or any problem of concern. Your chart is calculated by me personally and has full handwritten or taped interpretation. Michael Sweeney, Lot 11, White Gum Rd, BARKERS CREEK 3451. Ph: 054-742-798.

HOW TO – WRITE & PUBLISH your own book from home. Have a No.1 'Best Seller' & profit big $$$$. If I can do it, so can YOU! For details call now! Ph: 0055-25841.

HUMAN DESIGN ANALYST. Where are you heading? Who were you in previous lives? It helps to know. Cost $40. For more info write: Butterfly Typing, PO Box 334, EDGE HILL 4870, with your time-place-date of birth & sample of handwriting. Efficient personal service. Fax: 070-322-008.

ASTRO-MAPPING. Order your personal astro-mapping kit & find out the best geographical places for love, success, happiness & relocation. Send name, address, date, time & place of birth + $50 to: Astrobe, Box 1262, COFFS HARBOUR 2450, to receive maps & info booklet. For more information call 066-534-676.

MUD BRICK – INTERESTED? Create your own living space? Don't know how? We offer assistance in all aspects of abode building from design to lock up. We are experienced – we are flexible. Go – owner builder, do as much as you want (saves money), allow us to do all (saves blisters). Doug & John Worth, 14 Rosemarie Drive, DIDDILLIBAH 4559. Ph: 074-762-160.

ASTROLOGICAL FERTILITY CHARTS. Find out your monthly period of maximum fertility. Three year personal calendar (lunar-phase cycle). $28. For more info: Astrobe Charts Service PO Box 1262, COFFS HARBOUR 2450. Ph: 066-534-676.

THE PRIMAL PLACE. The transpersonal perspective holds that there is an essential unity underlying the diversity of humanity & the material world. The transpersonal vision is one is which compassion, love & responsibility are experienced for all forms of consciousness, & a global ecological vision of all life. The transpersonal experience enables us to contact & integrate aspects of ourselves & discover whatever dormant ability & potential that is unique to you but have lost touch with. Rediscovering those lost aspects of ourselves that continually intrude & spoil our enjoyment, pleasure & success of our own lives can bring about a profound & deeply meaningful state of 'being'. A new sensory awareness. A new consciousness. There is another way to 'be'. Those repressed aspects of ourselves inordinately affect us all of our adult lives & are expressed in other ways: discontentment, depression, anxiety, fear, nervous habits, isolation, loneliness, obsessional work & projects, use of drugs, aggression, anger, sexual dysfunction, inability to assert oneself, inability to relax & feel real pleasure. And in our r/ships. They also show themselves in a multiplicity of chronic psychosomatic complaints. We can be in a constant search, always in the wrong places. The transpersonal dynamic experience enables us to find the pathway along the sacred corridors in the realms of the human unconscious to the gateway of personal transformation. Sooner or later we each must face ourselves honestly. Who we are. Where we came from. To what are we travelling towards. The Primal Place, 44 Curnow St, GOLDEN SQUARE 3555. Ph: 054-413-683.

HOME PLANS. 45 PLANS for handcrafted homes of mudbrick, rammed earth, stone and pole frame construction. Mail $29 for *The Earth Builders Construction Detail & Plan Catalogue* to: John Baron – Building Designer, 31 Sharp St, Newtown, GEELONG 3220. Or ph: 052-224-249 for fixed quote to draw/document your home plan.

OPPORTUNITIES

RESTAURANT OR CRAFT BUSINESS – Coonabarabran. We are building a new tourist complex on the road to Warrumbungle Nat Pk and Siding Spring Observatory which together attract over 50,000 visitors annually. The main feature of our development will be a public observatory (the professional observatories are closed to the public at night) and associated science-based activities. We aim to attract school tour groups as well as the general public – we will be open 2 pm - 10 pm daily. We also have approval from Council to include a cafe/restaurant and a number of craft activities in the development: pottery, opal cutting, blacksmithing, painting, leather-work, wood-turning etc. If you are a chef or have a craft, would like to run your own business for whatever hours suit you and would like to move to a lovely town, ph: Max Mapleson on 068-422-425. Please note that there are GR - type people in the area and that there are small acreages for sale adjoining our site.

GR FEMALE wanted with $5000 to invest into recycle business & share 2 b/r house at Quorn SA. Age 25-35, down to earth with GR male aged 37. Must like music & animals. Plenty room for vegie patch if interested. Social smoker, drinker, rager OK. No hard drugs, wierdos, religious freaks. All letters answered, genuine replies only. Phillip (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

FREE ACCOMMODATION with area for own vegie garden for reliable couple or person, own income essen. N/smoker, n/drinker. In return for helping to maintain a chemical-free 150 ac property (50 ac cleared). Gardening/farming experience essen. Mechanical experience a must. Ph: Irene, 066-493-015 evenings.

OREA LINDA PROJECT: putting a large organic garden in the desert; excel stress-free lifestyle. Enquiries: visitors, helpers, ph: 091-921-445, or write: Arid Zona Research, PO Box 930, BROOME 6725.

MULTI NATIONAL ENTERPRISE expanding into Australia, world leader in environmental cleaning technology. Multi environmental award winning, first class, high turnover products. Build your own business with environmentally sound cleaning & natural skin care products. Exceptionally positive customer feedback. Sold now with great success in over 47 countries. Free training. Regional distributorships now avail. Ha-Ra Australia P/L, PO Box 1110, FRANKSTON 3199. Ph: 03-776-9002. Fax: 03-776-8331.

WANTED, RELIABLE, income-independent person or couple, on acreage northern New England. No elec; free rent; help and occasional caretaking. Need caravan. 'Nyxholme,' PO, DEEPWATER 2371.

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

OPPORTUNITIES

DEVELOPING ORGANIC FARM, ginseng, proteas, orchard, cattle, looking for a keen worker. We are offering separate accom and organic food. However for the right person we envisage paying a wage for the position of sharefarmer/caretaker as soon as the farm becomes profitable. Handyman skills and interest in plants highly regarded. No children or pets please. Write to: Mike & Robyn Tummon, RD 1146, SCOTTSDALE 7261.

SELF-MOTIVATED young married couple travelling north anti-clockwise around Australia will caretake/manage any business etc. Contact: T & E Prendergast, 15 Gowrie St, BRENDALE 4500.

NATURAL DEODORANT CRYSTAL. Wanted: market sellers or people who want to add another line to their existing business. It is a high consumer item and little cost to set up. All info please write to: The Body Crystal, PO Box 1168, STAFFORD 4053. Ph: 07-264-6296.

CLUBS

AUSTRALIAN HERB SOCIETY. Members receive quarterly magazine, seed from seed bank free, access to tape lending library. Write: The Secretary, PO Box 110, MAPLETON 4560.

NATIONAL ALLERGY ASSOCIATION of Australia (NAAA). Information, counselling, newsletter. For info & membership write to: PO Box 280, PARRAMATTA 2124.

CALENDAR EVENTS

HERITAGE GRAFTING DAYS – Learn to graft fruit trees, experience the delights of the past in years to come and be part of preserving our genetic heritage. August 6th, Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House (051-571-586), August 7th, Briagolong State School (051-455-457), August 13th, Preston City Childrens Farm (03-499-4232), August 14th, Research (03-437-1972).

ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO, Nimbin Showground, Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th September 1994. Enquiries & bookings ph: Bob Jackson, 066-897-213.

ORGANIC KNOW-HOW Education Day, at Luddenham Showground (near corner Park Rd & The Northern Rd, Luddenham (b/w Penrith & Camden), 60 km west of Sydney, Sunday Sept 11th. Presentations, speakers, workshops, demos, displays, stalls, natural foods. Further enquiries contact: Cecil/Marilyn Bodnar, ph: 02-607-7132.

PUBLICATIONS

'ALTERNATIVE PLANS & PRODUCTS', 6th Edition Catalogue 1994. The 6th edition of this popular catalogue is now avail. The catalogue contains a comprehensive listing of books, booklets, plans & infopacs covering alternative power generation, ethyl alcohol production, wind power, gas generation, solar stills, alternative housing plans, low voltage workshop set-up, appliance conversion, special batteries, mini work vehicle construction plans, growing plants for profit, solar powered water pumps, water purification, biological building, chemical hazards, earth energy fields and geopathic stress, infrasound, vivaxus bands. Other titles incl steam engine generator construction plans, methane gas generator plans, electric vehicle conversion plans for conventional cars, fuel cell construction, solar ovens and water heater plans, solar furnace, vortex tube heat and cold generator plans, free energy machines and magnetic engines and generators, composting toilets, specialised house construction methods. Remote home power installation and comprehensive water desalination methods, polywater and the coanda effect and many other recent developments are covered with this edition. *Prosperity from a pittance or How to live on less than $30.00 a week* is an eye-opener with many clever ideas for a sustainable, ecologically balanced future! For the Alternative Plans Catalogue, send $5.00 to: Alternative Plans, PO Box 487, AIISGROVE 4060. 33 Woodview St, SAMFORD 4520 (new address – please note).

EASY! U-BUILD, U-SELL PVC quilt frames. Inexpensive plan. Complete with all instructions, for all sizes. Be quick this is a great home-based business that you could start in your town. Send $5.50 p&h to: Dad's Army Australia, 27B, Kerrs Lane, COES CREEK 4560.

NO JOB? 132 Home-Based Businesses that you could start in your town. Send a stamped addressed long envelope. Dad's Army Australia, PO Box 5309, SCMC, NAMBOUR 4560.

BOOKS, OLD AND NEW. Send for general list. R Suters, PO Box 127, FIGTREE 2525.

STRETCH SEWING MANUAL by TAFE teacher, $4 posted. Jill Mitchell, 12 Mullacor St, FERNY GROVE 4055.

SOLAR WATER HEATER, simple practical plans to make low-cost, efficient solar water heater, $8.00 includes p&p. Brian Woodward, WOLLOMBI 2325.

'LIFE FORCE NEWS', monthly, FREE! Meditation, reincarnation, yoga, health, vegetarian recipes and much more! Ph: 02-363-2753, or write: PO Box 765, DOUBLE BAY, 2028.

FOR SELF-AWARENESS, spiritual growth, *The Dawn* newsletter. Bi-monthly annual subscription $18. PO Box 23, MARLEE 2429.

'COMPLEMENTARITY IN HEALTH', conference papers. This conference addressed the integration of different forms of health practice from a diverse range of practitioners. The Complementary Health Users Group is an organisation for health consumers, health practitioners of all forms, other health workers and all who support a diversity of approaches to healing. For info on campaigns, seminars, October national conference, membership and ordering conference papers contact: Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE 3000. Ph: 03-650-5327. Fax 03-650-8404.

'THE SPIRAL CONNECTION' – the definitive directory of who, what and where in 'alternative' businesses, natural healing, practitioners and products in Victoria is soon to be published. Please consider your work plans for 1994, 1995 and 1996 and advertise with us at $2 per word. Please send an SAE to: Patricia Hooper, for a Listings Form or ring Spiral with your fax number. Wholesale and retail prepublication orders are now being taken. Spiral Booksellers, 269 Smith St, FITZROY 3065. Ph: 03-417-2576. Fax: 03-419-4479.

'CHILD AWAKE!' A teacher/parent manual on Science for Class 3/4 by Alan Whitehead, based on Steiner creative/spiritual principles. Other 3/4 manuals are: *Logios* – Language; *Archios* – Maths; *Lore of Life* – Social Studies. All books $10 each, send to: Golden Beetle Books, Box 481 Mullumbimby 2482 – or write for titles list.

ANIMAL BOOKS – *Your Donkey*, *Cats' Company* & many more by post. Lists from: BROOMTAIL Publications, 171 Eaglehawk Rd, (PO Box 62), LONG GULLY 3550.

GUIDE TO THE REAL Bible truth. Why we have so much pain in the world. (Would a perfect God punish the innocent?) God's true intention for us. Why self-sufficiency & communal living are biblical concepts. Keys to 666, the beast & the seal. For free copy ph: 063-677-350 or write to Godfrey Austin, Obley St, CUMNOCK 2867.

'AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO'. How to grow, cure, treat & cut your own. A well researched book by John Van der Linden. Send $12 (postage included) to Lyn O'Brien, C/- PO, BARMAH 3639.

'SEPTIC TANKS' *How to Install, Build & Maintain an Existing One*, easy-steps booklet. Don't desludge, treat the cause not the effect. $20. H G Stephens, C/- PO Box 18, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002. Ph: 03-510-3192. 066-49-2704.

'AUSTRALASIAN SURVIVOR', the magazine that prepares its readers for the fast coming hard times. $2 for sample. PO Box 39, BARKER CENTRE 2603.

'NEXUS NEW TIMES' magazine is an independent publication bringing you the essential facts behind today's news. We describe new ways of living which improve your mental & physical health & enable you to thrive in the late 20th century. Take part in positive change – subscribe now! $25 pa. Nexus New Times, C/- PO, MAPLETON 4560.

'NIMBIN NEWS' is a co-operatively run access magazine with articles & info from Nimbin & other areas. We cover concerns relevant to alternative lifestylers & others looking for the most sustainable way. We are one of the longest running alternative magazines & the Nimbin bio-region is at the forefront in the development of sustainable systems. As networkers we scan many magazines for suitable & scarce info for our readers. Subscription: 12 editions for $25. Sample copy $2.50. PO Box 209, NIMBIN 2480.

'LIFEWISE', the independent Australian journal for natural health practitioners. Informative quarterly updates on activities & trends in natural healing, connections with conventional medicine, product news & book reviews. Subscriptions $24 one year, $48 two years. Send to: Research Publications, 27A Boronia Rd, Vermont 3133. Ph/fax: 03-873-1450.

GRASSIFIEDS

DEADLINES: GR 104 – JUNE 24TH
GR105 –AUGUST 26TH

PUBLICATIONS

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE! Is this your longing? The path of all great mystics, the Inner Path, leads you to Him. For info write to: Universal Life Dept 16/9, PO Box 5643, 97006 Wurzburg, Germany.

BOOKS, OLD AND NEW, send for list. R Suters, PO Box 127, FIGTREE 2525.

'ORGANIC GROWING', Australia's national quarterly magazine for gardeners & farmers who would rather grow nutritious, healthy food without the use of synthetic chemicals. Subscription only. $18 per annum. PO Box 228, ULVERSTONE TAS 7315.

'THE OWNER BUILDER MAGAZINE'. Want to be a successful owner builder? *The Owner Builder* magazine has plans, money saving ideas, advice & articles on successful owner builders. *The Owner Builder* magazine is avail from newsagents or by subscription. $24 for 6 issues. For more info write PO Box 974, BENDIGO 3550.

DONKEY SOCIETY OF AUST, for info on magazine subscription, publications, books & the care of donkeys. Branches in all states. Contact: DSA, C/- Mrs Pam Newton, PO Box 63, HURSTBRIDGE 3099.

'AUSTRALASIAN HEALTH & HEALING'. Journal of alternative medicine. Australia's major health care quarterly, emphasising self-healing & prevention of illness through measures which raise body defences. Sold at most newsagents & health shops, $4.95 ea, & by subscription, $23.40 or $29.90 with Health & Healing Newsletter per 4 issues (1 yr). Write: Australasian Health & Healing, 29 Terrace St, KINGSCLIFFE 2487.

'THE PERMACULTURE EDGE' magazine for current info on applied permaculture worldwide. Internationally subscribed & sourced: agriculture, economics, politics, sociology for the future. Subscribe now $16, 4 issues. Permaculture Nambour, PO Box 650, NAMBOUR 4560.

'TEXTILE FIBRE FORUM' covers all the textile arts in Australia/NZ/internationally. A high quality 62 page colour magazine. Send 3 x 45c stamps to cover p&p & you'll receive a FREE SAMPLE COPY, no obligation. Or, subscribe for $18/yr ($35/2 yrs); 3 issues per year. Cheques payable to TAFTA (PO Box 38, THE GAP 4061). A truly exciting publication; bring it into your life today!

'THE SEED SAVERS' HANDBOOK' by Michel & Jude Fanton, selling like hotcakes, into 3rd printing. $23 post paid. Box 975, BYRON BAY 2481.

'TAROT FOR YOURSELF' (mini-book), *Living Tarot - The Intuitive Journey*. These books by Ann Walker + many more on herbs, animals, Celtic Lore, palmistry also audio tapes & tarot cards from: 'Broomtail', 171 Eaglehawk Rd (PO Box 62), LONG GULLY 3550. Send for your mail order catalogue now.

'NEEM NOTES', ten for 1994, subscription $9. Dryland Reclam Project, PO Box 1166, CHARTERS TOWERS 4820.

'ABOUT CANDIDIASIS' (thrush, candida albicans), a simple guide to health and foods, by Patricia A Pettit, ND, SRN. A naturopathic approach, incl a selection of recipes. Send $8.75 (incl postage). For more info write to: PA Pettit, PO Box 385, COOMINYA 4311.

CONTACTS

PLACING A CONTACT AD?
If you do not wish your address to be published, you may prefer to have replies sent C/- PO Box 242, Euroa 3666 (our address) and we'll forward them (unopened) to you. There is a nominal charge of $5 for this service, so please add this to the amount when calculating the cost of your ad.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SUCCESSFUL WRITER/PUBLISHER of car tour guide books seeks active young lady with sense of humour & good domestically to share this enterprise with him in Canberra. Write (photo): Allan, PO Box 202, CURTIN 2605.

LADY, YOUNG FIFTY, seeks an active quiet natured gent. I am happy, easy-going and quiet natured n/s, s/drinker. Enjoys country living & home life. Loves outdoor work. Interests are varied, all sensible. Not sports minded or into social life. All letters with recent photos will be answered. Mary (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

HI, I AM A SINGLE young man, 21, looking for an honest, genuine, young woman, 19+ to help me recover from a broken heart and to share some of my likes and dislikes. So if you are single with no children and can relate to bushwalking, sports, playing cards, walking on the beach and the country, I would like to hear from you. Write to me: John (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

HI GENUINE PEOPLE ONLY. I am a sole parent with one 11 yr old son, I myself in my forties. Both my son & self love the outdoors, all animals (especially horses), camping, fishing, meeting interesting people. We would one day love to have a farm with a few ac. I am not in the position to do this (maybe one-day). Is there any person or persons who would like a couple of helping hands (4 in fact), on their property weekends, or school holidays? I would like my son to learn all he can about farming, he is intelligent, well mannered and eager to learn. Carol (GR 103), PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GENT, FIFTY (YOUNG), separated, have house & property on far nth coast. No ties, smoker (unfortunately), s/drinker, nonvegetarian, had only been with one lady for 30 yrs. Would like to meet sincere & honest lady to 40 years, slim, attractive, with an outgoing personality, who would like to be loved & would love in return. I am not a greeny, I like the country & the lifestyle it has to offer. Photo appreciated, please write: Barry (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

DEAR GYPSY LADY,

We have perhaps all made mistakes in our lives and choice of partners. Sometimes we grow apart through the events that occur to us; sometimes, we enter relationships when we don't fully understand or realise the qualities that we seek in a partner; and, of course there may be a direct link between the two.

I believe it is important that to be successful the individuals should be very close in their nature and feelings.

I have a very gentle and sensitive nature and believe in absolute trust and honesty in a relationship. 'Your word is your honour.' I desire a closeness and privacy that is very intimate, tender and sensual.

I am a very considerate and giving person who is a good provider.

I can be a relatively quiet person on occasions and would enjoy being with someone who is likewise. Sometimes communication doesn't require words; touch and feelings of the heart are all that are needed.

I have an absolute distaste of aggressive natures, I have never been that way and believe that you must never hurt other lives. I dislike greed.

Although somewhat nomadic in nature through my work (mobile home), I would ultimately like to seek a permanent home.

Peace, tranquillity and a love of nature, our lives are so precious to us. When two people come together they become as one. Your partner is the most important person in your life.

I would like a slim, attractive woman with a gypsy nature, I have a distinct passion for long hair.

I am in my late thirties, educated, and seek a partner aged between 25 and 35 years.

My likes and dislikes:

I enjoy reading, music, travelling, working, nature, loving and just being together. I do enjoy cricket as a sport but would otherwise live without television.

Cities are there for when you need them, they are for others, as with shoes, I wear them only when necessary.

If you feel that you are very close to myself in nature and are on your own, then perhaps we belong together.

I have a very deep love and seek a very strong and committed relationship with a likewise devoted lady.

A GYPSY lady would be lovely.

Replies to Paul: C/- PO Box 223, BANGALOW 2479.

Stars, crystals and rainbows.
'love is happiness'

CAN I CORRESPOND with an uncomplicated lady in her 50s? I'm a 57 yr old retired grandfather, refugee from city stress, and a divorcee a decade ago, now addicted to rural tranquillity. I'm an educated greenie, I listen to Mozart and I barrack for Queensland, my state of origin. Correspondence may initiate a cautious approach to friendship. I consider communication skill the only important personal attribute. Write, if interested, to: Michael, PO Box 304, KYOGLE 2474.

GRASSIFIEDS

CONTACTS

NEW SOUTH WALES

LUCKY, EASY-GOING Sagittarian male. Young 33, 5'7", 9 stone and clean. Loves smiling, laughing, music, reading, healthy food, adventure, mountains, clear flowing rivers, optimistic people and close intimate relationships. Dislikes racism, sexism, rap music and egotistical people. Into spiritual growth through meditation, rebirthing and other awareness processes, not into religions or cults. Seeks relationship with slim, attractive, n/s, s/drinker or n/drugs, healthy, like-minded woman. Children OK. Returnable recent photo appreciated. Also interested in communicating with like-minded people in the Port Macquarie, Wauchope area. Please reply to: Steve (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

MALE, YOUNG FIFTY-THREE, Virgo, non smoker/drinker/sexist/racist/ageist, and recently reluctantly transplanted in Sydney, would like to contemplate non-urban alternatives with caring, spiritual, non-religious woman living between Hobart and Humpty Doo. If beards don't turn you off and affection and a partner who sometimes publicly performs old-time blues might turn you on, ring 02-437-6794 or write: NK (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

CENTRAL WEST SLOPES, lonely single male, 44, n/smoker, n/drinker, quiet natured, sense of humour, definitely not wealthy. Seeks slim lady, any nationality. (This ad is a repeat from GR 102 as some mail went astray!) ML (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

LOVING PASSIONATE WOMAN: I'm a young 35, slim, 5'5", outgoing and healthy. Are you, too, seeking a 'love-each-other-to-bits' relationship: creating & sharing a commitment and our dreams (& perhaps children – soon)? Interested in buying/building a joyful home/guesthouse on central/nth coast or Blue Mtns together? Like me, do you love fun, intimacy and affection, massages, talking and laughing a lot, open fires, sunshine, huge secluded beaches, bush, sailing, waterfalls, growing gardens, indulging in great vegies/seafood, good wine, blues, jazz, dancing, yoga, travelling and discovering new places and people? Interested in community & world concerns, Eastern philosophy, growing and learning with others, a joyful earthy lifestyle? If all this feels good and you're nonsexist, nonreligious, gentle and strong, loving, adventurous, and a healthy 30-something or older, please reply honestly and openly to: 'Morgana' (GR 103), with (returnable) recent full photo. C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GENT, FIFTY-FIVE, 5'7", slim, into permaculture, ideals, outdoors, reading, music, seek sharing r/ship with pioneering, caring lady. Sydney Boy (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

ANSWERING A CONTACT AD?
Please put each letter in a separate, stamped envelope addressed C/- GR.
We will re-address & forward it.

If you doubt the wisdom of replying to any ad – trust your intuition.

GENUINE, AUSTRALIAN MAN, Taurus, 33 yo, self-employed, tall, slim, n/smoker, s/drinker, building country house in beautiful valley, would like to meet lady 25-30 yo with Australian background, interested in plants, gardening, bushwalking, bird-watching, nature, Aust history, home life. Taree, Gloucester & nth Sydney area replies welcome. Brendan, PO Box 211, GLOUCESTER 2422.

APOLOGIES TO READERS who answered Nicole's advertisement (GR 102) & who did not get any answer: some mail went astray! Please try again. Nicole (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

QUEENSLAND

EX-AUSTRIAN 44 yr old male, but much younger in mind & looks, seeks female companion to enjoy each others' company. Please ring me on 075-366-856, or write to: PO Box 845, TWEED HEADS 2485.

LOVABLE GR GENT 45, gentle caring nature, intelligent, agricultural engineer, humorous, n/smoker/religious, financially secure, loves music, tranquillity, mountains, the ocean. Crazy about animals and the bush. Trying to find that special GR lady, 35-45, who would welcome a little help/love/companionship. Area open. PO Box 6388, Acacia Ridge, BRISBANE 4110.

SINCERE, HONEST LADY sought by pre-op transgender f/m, seeking sincere, honest lady. Genuine enquiries. PO Box 841, MUDGEERABA 4213.

AQUARIUS, FORTY-SIX, living NW Qld mining town, seeks Libra - Aquarius lady for perm r/ship. Social drinker fine, n/smoker, no cat. Loves gardening, craft, good food, music & travel. Aquarius, PO Box 1194, MOUNT ISA 4825.

CARING LADY, TWENTY-NINE, Leo, working, own transport, interests include reading, walking, gardening, herbs, crafts, m/bikes. Like to meet single vegetarian man, n/smoker (s/drinker OK) for friendship/r/ship, living or interested in living in country with interest in working toward close to GR lifestyle. Caroline, PO Box 3041, NORMAN PARK 4170.

GENT, SIXTY, active n/smoker, no ties. Enjoys bushwalking, camping, birdlife, canoeing. Cheerful, optimist, avid reader. Seeks female companion, age open, for shared outings, possible perm r/ship. Not wealthy but content. Ph: 076-973-777.

WOMAN, FIFTY-TWO, single, attractive, seeking others interested in walking in and around Brisbane for pleasure & fitness. Also would like to share other social activities on a regular basis, homelife & holidays. PW, C/- PO Box 6123, FAIRFIELD GARDENS 4103.

MALE THIRTY-THREE, 5'11", Cancer, n/s, n/drinker, environmentally conscious, back to basics. Enjoys bushwalking & country living. Currently unemployed. Love to meet honest, sincere lady for friendship, companionship. 'Relationship', PO Box 944, CABOOLTURE 4510.

I AM FORTY-FIVE YEARS & looking for a very sincere single lady to live in & to share together a quiet country life. I am trying to set up a native flower nursery and to keep my work going too. Plenty of good soil, water & electric power. Please write to: Lesley, 'The Overflow', BOGANTUNGAN 4702.

LEO LADY, 35, wishes to write to people interested in astrology, tarot; gardening by the moon, re-incarnation, karma, vegetarianism, animals, children. Please write to: Kerri Davidson, C/- Post Office, BURLEIGH 4220.

NEW AGE CHRISTIAN GENT, 38, honest, kind, caring & cuddly, n/smoker, n/drinker. Believes in caring & sharing, honesty & fidelity. Hates falseness & TV. Likes truth, holding, nature, reading, home life & outdoors. Loves & wants children. Own home on 3 lovely ac. Seeks lifetime lady companion. SE Qld – wherever. Trevor (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

SIX FOOT BUILT, 5 timer man, 29. Good natured, sense of humour, optimistic, Capricorn, seeks sincere lady, kid OK, for family & signwriting life. Meet me. Roland (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

WOMAN, FIFTY-TWO, tired of predictability & aloneness of Brisbane living, seeks warm, intelligent male companion, interested in developing a mutually rich and rewarding r/ship. I am aware, attractive, sensitive, intelligent, not fashionably slim but with an ongoing commitment to health and fitness. I intend this, my second life journey, to be one of growth and adventure both socially and spiritually. I have a reflective nature, enjoy laughter and intimacy, my interests are mountains, the sea, travel, walking, books, cinema, ideas, homelife etc. I prefer small group interaction and must have regular communication with nature. Replies invited from males who feel a connection they wish to explore. I in turn will respond with details of my plans, thoughts and ideas. Sunshine Coast Qld through to Victoria. Reply: Pat (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GENUINE MAN, FORTY-EIGHT, tall, divorced, no family. Business owner, nth Qld, great personality & outlook on life, n/religious, s/drinker, mod music to c&w. Ex-farmer, interests: nature, animals, racing, sailing. Looking for young broadminded lady not into bars or drugs, with a gentle loving nature, who doesn't mind being friendly with older man for platonic friendship – in time who knows – with open attitude to life. Photo please. Murray (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

FRENCH LADY, early 40s, attractive, educated, no ties, specialised in natural healing, like to meet educated man similar interests. Write to: Michelle (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666. (Some replies to Michelle from GR 101 were redirected to the wrong address. If Michelle has not replied to you, please write again.)

TALL, SLIM, FIFTY-THREE yo nth Q female, frank, independent, intelligent, sensitive, loving & adventurous, would like to meet like-minded uncomplicated male for lasting r/ship. Lorna (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

GRASSIFIEDS

CONTACTS

TASMANIA

MALE, TWENTY-NINE, seeks female 25-35, to befriend & do stuff. I live on a bush block pursuing an alternative lifestyle. I enjoy making music, bush tramping & getting out. Replies to: PO Box 152, BEACONSFIELD 7270.

LADY, THIRTY-FOUR, recently moved to Tas. Fit, active, healthy, professional, no ties, sense of humour. Loves the bush, camping, diving, farming, gardening. Would love to meet like-minded companion. SW (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

VICTORIA

WOMAN, FORTY-FOUR, slim, attractive, divorcee, seeks man 40-50ish, drug-free, solvent, interested in social justice & green issues for long-term r/ship. Prefer Melbourne person. Reply: Linda, PO Box 141, SOUTHLAND 3192.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD, seeks perm r/ship. Interests include home-cooking, family life, gardening. Arthur, 11 Hyacinth Grove, WENDOUREE 3355.

VEGETARIAN, FORTY-FOUR, tall, intelligent, affectionate, lots of interests & easy-going, seeks loving, vegetarian woman, 30-50 for friendship, possibly perm r/ship, in which the traditional male-female roles are reversed. Please write to: Box 440, RICHMOND 3121, or Ph: 018 418 651.

ARE YOU AN AUTHENTIC male of warmth, integrity & substance, seeking a r/ship based on a reciprocal process of mutual commitment, trust, empathy, loyalty, respect, fun & humour, self-disclosure, mutual support, shared responsibility, with a mutuality of values, interests & complimentary differences, sharing the profound as well as the mundane? Are you emotionally accessible, capable of identifying your feelings & comfortable expressing them, committed to your personal growth with a spiritual dimension to your life (nondogmatic)? Have you explored both the inner and outer dimension of life, are stable but not constrained by convention, have an appreciation for the absurd (I feel a little absurd now.)? Do you have a global perspective, humanitarian values, eclectic intelligence, playful, serious about r/ships & aware of the poignancy of life while maintaining a sense of humour about the rest? I have many pursuits, a penchant for the arts, philosophy, psychology, massage, politics, meditation, an affinity with nature, wilderness, remote places, moonlight, the ocean, candlelight, ecology, metaphysics, movies, social justice, books, etc, etc. I am an attractive woman seeking an enduring r/ship with an aware antisexist, contemporary, self-knowing, unstereotypical male, who likes candour, irony, courage, and comic relief. Age 37-45 approx. Professional and smokeless. Maryanne, PO Box 167, PRAHRAN 3181.

ANSWERING A CONTACT AD?
Please put each letter in a separate, stamped envelope addressed C/- GR.
We will re-address & forward it.

MELBOURNE WOMAN, FIFTIES, youthful, intelligent, independent, nonbigoted, n/s, seeks open-minded, young-at-heart, honest man around own age for friendship, shared experiences. My interests include films, reading, bushwalks, tai chi, music, dance. Wendy (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

OUTER EASTERN SUBURBS, 47. Hi! My name is Ian. I am 47 yo, single never been married. My star sign is Leo & I am 170 cm tall with no ties. I am a n/smoker & only light social drinker. I have fair hair & blue eyes & I am broad-shouldered person of fairly solid build. My nationality is Australian & I have a secure job. I am also financially secure. My religion is Church of England, and I am a regular church goer. I consider myself to be quite tidy, easy-going, gentle, caring, friendly, down-to-earth person. I am not into drugs. My interests are classical music, gardening, concerts, picnics, flora and fauna photography, camping, travelling, walking, dancing, looking after home, long weekends in the country. The lady I'd like to meet should be single, no ties, in the 35-47 yo age group, give or take a year, who dresses casually, like myself, with view to friendship and companionship with a view to a perm r/ship & marriage if compatible. Photo appreciated but not necessary. I live in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne by myself. I also own my own house and car. All photos returned and all replies answered. I am definately not into one-night stands. This is a genuine ad. All replies answered. Ian (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

LONELY ARTIST/WRITER, 70, sentimental, caring, n/s, fond of gardening, good music, pets, seeks friendship with fun loving lady any age, young at heart. JB (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

WANTED: LADY interested in self-suff, animals, gardening, etc by male 44, n/s, 1.73m, 75 kg, fair hair, blues eyes, short beard, own home. Central Vic (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MALE, EARLY FIFTIES, gay, tall, slim, seeks companionship. Likes gardening, animals, nature, n/smoker, s/drinker. Meet. Same age not important. FB (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

TWENTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD BLONDE, 5'2" lady. Part vegie & hippie, n/s, fit, sense of humour. Likes animals, nature, waterfalls, r/forest, growing things. Dislikes dust, dirty water. Looking for honest male up to 40 yrs for r/ship. Unimportant where you live, like to travel. Photos appreciated. Reply: Sandi, PO Box 1282, KALGOORLIE 6430.

NATURAL, POSITIVE, lively independent, tall, slim, lady 39. Professional, n/s/drinker, vegetarian, adventurous, down-to-earth and practical. Interested in personal and spiritual growth, self-awareness, wholistic health, gentle music, anything cultural, travel, camping, nature, the bush, animals, permaculture, anything alternative, caring for Gaia. Love the idea of communities and villages. Seeking a like-minded unattached male partner, soul mate, companion and friend, early 40s for long r/ship. Reply: Rose (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

Please refer to page 67 for details on how to advertise

Sender's Name ..... For issue no/s .....

Address ..... Classification .....

..... Postcode ..... Cost .....

Cost for advertisements is 40c per word.

GRASSIFIEDS

CONTACTS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

YOUNG THIRTY-EIGHT gent, likes surfing, camping, travel, wining, dining, arts, crafts, romantic nights, seeks woman same interests. No hassle-minded persons please, I've been alone too long. Kurt (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

COUNTRY GENT, LATE THIRTIES, single, no ties. I am of medium build, 168cm tall, living/working in Exmouth, WA. My interests include camping, 4WD expeditions, prospecting, house/garden activities, fishing, native fauna/flora conservation, occasional nights out and to create wildlife sanctuary in SW region. I am n/s, s/drinker, good sense of humour and GR kinda guy. I seek special lady, 26 yrs (plus/minus), with similar interests to build trusting, loving, caring r/ship. Photo would be appreciated. If you have that intuitive feeling about me please write: Geoff (GR 103), C/- PO Box 242, EUROA 3666.

OTHER

PENFRIENDS, OVERSEAS/AUSTRALIA. Please send SAE, PO Box 3311, Weston 2611, AUSTRALIA.

INTERNATIONAL PENFRIENDS, all ages welcome, 300,000 members worldwide. Please send SAE to IPF, PO Box 303, Busselton 6280, AUSTRALIA.

LATE GRASSIFIEDS

HOUSE, TEN ACRES, 30 f/trees. Battery/solar inverter power. $46,000. Starlight, Browns Creek, Sunshine coast 4561. Ph: 075-378-690 after July 2nd.

WIND GENERATOR BUSINESS for sale. Innovative new designs. Sale includes all stock, materials, as well as full training. Loads of potential! Only $15,000. For details call Brisbane 018-879-072.

QUARTER ACRE, SHED, CARAVAN, power, water, f/trees, small town nr Townsville. $13,000. Ph: 077-736-598.

SECURITY AND COMPUTER BUSINESS in tropical, seaside mining town. Family business estab 7 yrs, good contracts. Some technical experience required. Training given to right applicant. $80,000. Ph: 089-871-011. Write: PO Box 206, NHULUNBUY 0881.

PERMACULTURE, dinner, bed & breakfast. Knowledge & food at the Gravestein's Farm – 3pm to 10am – $80 pp or $150 p/couple. Booking essential, one month ahead. Practical experiences on site. Contact with SAE to: V Gravestein, RMB 1130, Chiltern 3683, or Ph: 057-261-596.

GENUINE GR BUYER wants secluded tranquillity on 40+ ac with dam and/or flowing crk, plus well timbered. Virgin or dwelling OK. Not flat or bare. No agents. Please call: Garry or Bronwyn, 07-814-0133.

ASTROLOGER WANTS GIRLFRIEND, 17 July 57, 15 July 59, 30 Jan 60, 16 Jan 61, 23 Dec 66, 15 Feb 67, 12 Jan 70. Larry Stevens, TATHAM 2471.

HERVEY BAY, 2 b/r cottage on 3/8 ac, 5 min walk to beach, shops, pub etc. Perm dam, gardens, sea views, s/c stove. $89,000. Ph: 071-253-682.

ALLEN GILBERT'S PRUNING WORKSHOPS. Two workshops: Saturday, 18 June '94, Sunday, 19 June '94, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Workshops to be held at Rippon Lea, 192 Hotham St, Elsternwick. Cost: $36 (National Trust Members $29). Information & bookings Ph: 03-523-7184.

UNIQUE CAPE YORK PROPERTY at historic Portland Roads. Beach frontage cabin on 1/4 ac. This property has been used as a restaurant serving yacht, 4WD & local fishing industry. Outstanding wildlife, ocean & coastal views. Within easy reach of Iron Range Nat Pk. Solar & gas power. Price $80,000 + new renovating materials, restaurant memorabilia, equipment, vehicles etc. Will consider trade on Qld country property or business to $98,000. Alan Parkin, CMB, 52 Cairns Mail Exchange, CAIRNS 4871.

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Feedback Link-Up Feedback

Dear GR,

I am studying Agricultural Science at Melbourne University. As part of my course requirement I need to do 12 weeks **WORK EXPERIENCE** at three or four commercial farms. I am hoping to work on farms that are trying to farm in a more natural and sustainable way. If someone is able to give me work experience this summer, or next summer, please write. The farm need not be near where I live, as I am willing to travel interstate if need be. I will reply to everyone kind enough to write.

B van Rijswijk
3 Janet St, BORONIA 3155.

Dear GRs,

We are a young couple (25 & 27) with an 11 year old daughter, and two beautiful well behaved dogs. Next April (95) my husband will be leaving his job in the defence force (providing they accept his resignation) and we will be returning to **TASMANIA** (yahoo!). Is there anybody willing to offer us some helpful suggestions of job prospects for 95? We are both hard workers, interested in self-sufficiency, organic gardening, permaculture, aquaculture and Masanobu Fukuoka's natural way of farming. We also have some craft skills.

We have 39 acres in Mole Creek (Deloraine) but it has no dwelling on it. Any suggestions on building something to live in (for the budget conscious)? We are full of ideas ourselves but would dearly love to hear from people who are living an alternative lifestyle (if they could find the time in their busy lives). Is there a bartering system in Tassie? We hope to hear from anybody who can shed some light on the above subjects. All letters will be gratefully answered.

Matt & May Bower,
23 Wyola St, Cooloongup, ROCKINGHAM 6168.

Dear GR Network,

I have been inspired to put pen to paper by the feeling of genuine warmth and friendship expressed through GR magazine, hoping maybe someone can help me. I am a mum of four children, a boy (6), a girl (4) and twins (1 boy, 1 girl) four months old. I sold my own business two years ago to give more time to my kids (I was working 7 days a week). Now that I am at home all the time, I have had the time and pleasure to discover such things as my kids, your magazine (it's terrific) and the chance to improve my family's lives by heading towards as self-sufficient a lifestyle as we can on our one acre. As our land contains just the house, lots of lawn and only boundary trees I know I have a lot of work ahead of me. I plan to start with a herb and vegetable garden and have noticed a lot of people like to **SWAP SEEDS** of their favourite plants with others. This sounds wonderful, but where do you start if you don't have any seeds to swap? Maybe some kind person wouldn't mind parting with a few seeds of something to get me going. I would be very grateful and thank you personally in writing if you would be generous enough to help. Any tips people could give me on the best ways to start from scratch would also be appreciated. One final request I have is, does anybody know of a way to **WASH AND DRY NAPPIES** in the sun without them going hard (or using expensive softeners from the shops)? With the twins I wash about two dozen nappies a day and using the dryer is too expensive.

Sandi Redman,
3 Regan Drive, ROMSEY 3434.

Dear GR,

Does anybody have any info on **LINING LEAKY CORRUGATED IRON WATER TANKS** with cement? The things I would like to know are: How to do it. Does the lime in the concrete make the water alkaline or otherwise affect the quality of it for washing with soap etc? What are the effects on one's health of storing water in concrete, and, conversely what about the zinc in the galvanizing on steel tanks? Is this absorbed by the body? Also, is there anyone who has had any experience in **ORGANIC GROWING IN A GREENHOUSE?** I would like to hear any comments or stories, as I am contemplating it.

Erica MacKenzie,
28 Ridge St, LAWSON 2783.

Hi All,

I've had a large change in my circumstances and am moving on in a lot of areas. I'd like to **SELL MY GR MAGAZINES** nominal cost, say $10. The numbers are 69-75, 77-98, 100-102 inclusive. I'd like to sell them to someone who would really appreciate them and use them fully.

Robyn Murphy,
PO Box 23, ROSEVILLE 2069.

Poetry

INTRUDER

A wallaby resting in the shade
from December's searing heat
languidly reclining on my patch of grass
A small oasis in this brown and thirsty land
verdant only by my daily care.
and there he lies so blissfully content
prone on the cool green patch.
I hesitate beside my door –
he looks so peaceful there.
He hears me and his ears respond
to my instrusive sounds
the dainty ears move gently round
his pink nose quivers as he softly stirs.
I know he will return
when dusk brings cooler air
and bring his family and friends
to nibble at my grass
and leap unheedingly upon my treasured plants.
I close the door
and leave him to his rest.

Ruby Henderson.

WINTER MORNING – A MEMORY

We're going out feeding the chickens - scooping bran
And pollard into a dipper.
Boiling water from the fountain
Drips on the hearth and sizzles into the fire.
There's a smell like warm bread. You let me taste
And together we stir with the worn-away spoon.

I see you, then, heading down the path in your
flowered faded pinny
Your hair snowy white as the frost.
Crisp on grass, that scrunches underfoot
And powders the wood-heap where we pass.
By Christmas you'll be rolling heads, bloodied
On that block by your ruthless madwoman's axe.

Hens are awake and fussing, preparing for a busy day.
Those yellow and black fluff-balls are chicks
That we try to count but they hide
In the ruffle of their warm feather bed.
On nests of pine needles, or straw.
China eggs encourage laying.

You spoon out mash while young cockerals brawl
And the mother with older chicks tutors in Eating
With discussion and instruction on Foraging
From those fine-feathered matrons, their aunts.
We return to the house in a rolling gait
And the same slow pace that suits us both very well.

Nola Bindon.

THE FACE OF A CHILD

The other day
I looked
into the face
of a child
and saw myself
the child
of long ago
how I long
sometimes
to be that
child again.

Look at
the face
of a child
and see
the wonder
of life unfolding,
the world
so full
of new things
reaching out
to grow.

Look at
the face
of a child
and see life
before the years
come and steal
the innocence
the joie de vivre
and wonder
of all that's
yet to be.

Look again
at the faces
of those
you meet
and see
the child
that once was
beneath the mask
that shrouds
the dark memories
of yesterday.

Ken Mason.

ESSENTIALLY ME

I'm no less a woman
For lack of womanly adornment
I can be hurt by the indifference
Of male admiration,
The lack of spark
Ignited by chiselled features
Under highlighted artwork,
Aided by designer feathers,
The plumage of a peacock
Artificially inseminated,
Originality copied to order.

Am I to be penalised
For standing alone,
Holding erect all that is myself
And nothing more,
Undisguised by temptations
of acceptance?

It takes confidence to challenge
The artifice of our new reality,
To compete unaided
With the dollars of cosmetic beauty,
To stand proud in the flickering
And fading gaze
Of one who is dazzled
By the luminous beauty
of an illusion.

Melinda Hammond.

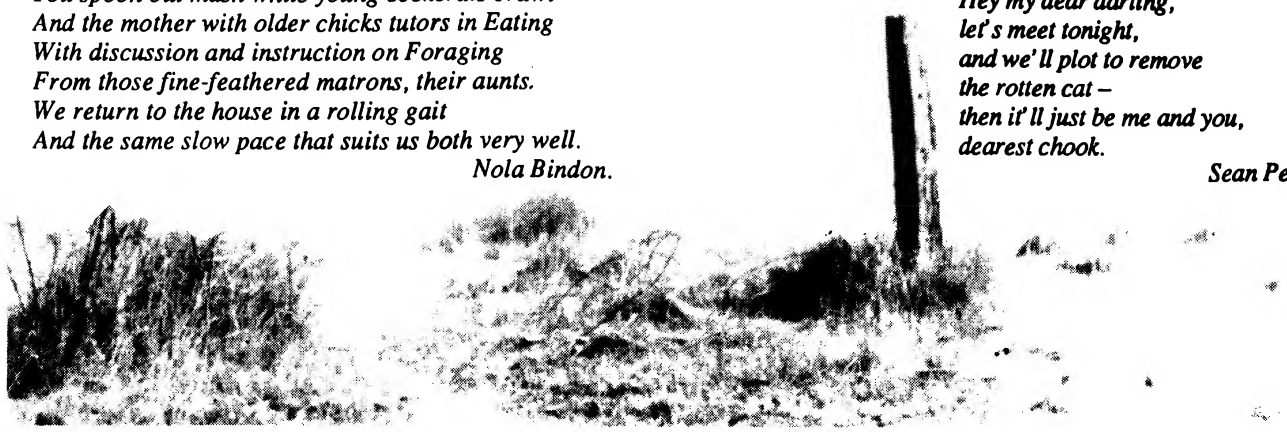
TO MY NEW FRIEND

I can't believe this is happening –
you're more crude than genteel,
more wonderful than beautiful.
each day you chase around,
fertilising and digging and removing
insects and rotting fruit
whilst only wanting scraps in return.

And each morning I find you still busy
so eager to pop me breakfast –
whilst my companion sleeps.
she only dreams of stalking,
then killing you.

Hey my dear darling,
let's meet tonight,
and we'll plot to remove
the rotten cat –
then it'll just be me and you,
dearest chook.

Sean Peters.



Gumnut Gossip

by Megg Miller.

Grass Roots readers are a wonderful lot, full of knowledge on the most obscure topics and rich in hearsay and folklore. When I asked about breeding maggots last issue little did I realise every third person and their dog (a) knew of or had tried a foolproof breeding method, and (b) was more than happy to share it. For the benefit of all readers – who knows when you'll need such information – we will feature an article on fly farming in a future issue. Meanwhile, did you know maggots are known by a plethora of other names, including maggies, gents and gentles, the latter being popular usage amongst anglers?

My story relating our confusion over the bastard file also elicited a delightful response, most letters following the same storyline but with more or less exaggeration or elaboration. It's a good earthy story and, I hope, doesn't cause offence or embarrassment to anyone. I'm sure most readers will have experienced a parallel incident, be it with farm or building equipment, or even livestock, and enjoyed a good laugh about it later. *Years ago when female shop assistants in hardware stores were only beginning to appear, a male customer approached a young lady and asked to buy a file. She enquired of him what sort he desired, and he replied, 'A real big bastard!' Extremely put out the lass rushed off to the manager and complained of the reprehensible behaviour of the customer. The manager gently explained that as far as files went, the term bastard was perfectly proper, being the name of a large coarse file. Enlightened, the assistant returned to her duties. Some time later another male customer asked to see the files, and the sales assistant eager to show her recently acquired knowledge, asked, 'Do you want a big bastard?'. 'No, love,' came the reply, 'just a little bugger about eight inches long will do the trick!'*. A hearty thank you to all readers who rang or sent in material relating to 'gentles', and who shared similar amusing stories with us. I'm sure there isn't a reader who is ignorant about bastard files now.

Alas, not all the letters readers write are as helpful or pleasant as those referred to above. It's been brought to our attention that one or two individuals have been misusing the contacts section of the Grassifieds by writing abusive and crude letters to those using this facility. I'm loath to describe these correspondents as 'sick', but it is obvious they have unresolved relationship issues from their past and are childishly venting their spleen on innocent readers. I have a message for them: What are you, mice or men? Your letters are unpleasant and crude, and you hide behind anonymity. Gutless! Fortunately those on the receiving end have acted sensibly, either burning the letters or sending them in to us. We've been very impressed by the skill of the Investigations Branch of Australia Post, and suggest readers send in mail of this nature, with the accompanying envelope, to our office. It's disappointing that just one or two antisocial characters can spoil things for so many others.

Last issue when we featured the two viewpoints on vaccination in the Feedback section we added a postscript saying that we felt we had given this topic ample coverage and would not be engaging in further rhetoric on it. In view of the imminent bursting of the articles cabinet and that there are other aspects of a self-sufficient lifestyle we want to present, we stand firm on this. To quote our editor, Mary Horsfall, 'The debate has gone on too long, been too repetitive and is taking space we feel can be put to better use'. We have continued to receive material on this issue and appreciate the two sides concerned, but GR is multi-faceted and must attend to other subject areas it may have neglected.

It looks as though I have the subject of letters and letter writers under the spotlight this time, so I'll have another nibble at it before moving on. We've noticed a curious phenomenon regarding overseas readers. Although our total of overseas subscribers has remained fairly constant, the numbers of letters from off-shore environs has sky-rocketed and we are baffled as to why. Do Aussies send their mags overseas after they've read them, or are the small number that go around the world read and re-read by all and sundry? It's good to know GR has wide appeal and that the topics we cover are relevant to people in other places. We noticed in this week's mail a gift sub going off to Uganda, to a young Australian who is running a backpackers hostel in Kampala to support himself while he teaches permaculture and sustainable agriculture skills. Sid and Thelma from Murgon (Qld) shared a letter they had recently received from John, who wrote of the enormous problem in that country of orphan children, and how the establishment of permaculture systems will help orphanages to feed their charges. It was refreshing to read of the commitment of this young person, and his preparedness to carry through the programmes he is initiating, with or without government funding. We will try to feature a little more on his fine work in a later issue of GR.

With the team of staff we have now we thought we had sufficient helpers to cope with the office load, however we appear to have acquired an extra pair of hands – or should I say, paws. A furry nocturnal assistant has found a way in and occasionally visits the office, leaving its business 'card' behind. We have resident possums in the wall at each end of the building and hear them scratching and belching as we work. At night when I'm working late, they're on the roof, limbering up for their Tarzan-like activities, so goodness knows when our 'assistant' finds the time to enter and shuffle a few papers. Everything that's misplaced now is blamed on the possum, it's even held responsible for hitches with the typesetter or computer. It must be quite a fellow, not only can it read and write, lose pens and tamper with technology, but it can open and close doors too, as we've never really located where it enters and exits. Perhaps it's read our back copies containing the articles on relocating wildlife, and knows how to keep one step ahead. It's corny I know, but surely a case of scape possum rather than scape goat.

We all need such lightheartedness, we're living in very troubled times. With the world's bloodshed and violence dominating so much of our daily media, we can't escape being confronted with the enormity of the crisis mankind is in. We can send money and pray, but the eventual outcome is beyond our control. *Grass Roots* and its simple, family values is like a beacon in the storm, lighting a way through the hurly-burly for us. How fortunate we are to have fences to mend, weeds to pull, possums in the ceiling. Happy reading and working.

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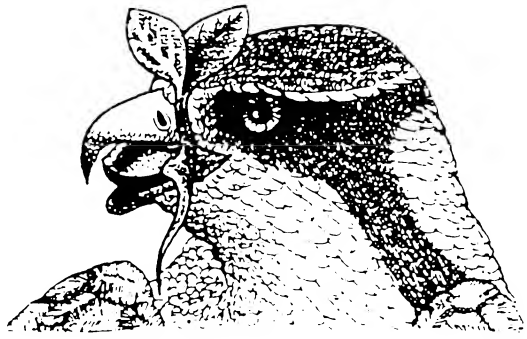
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